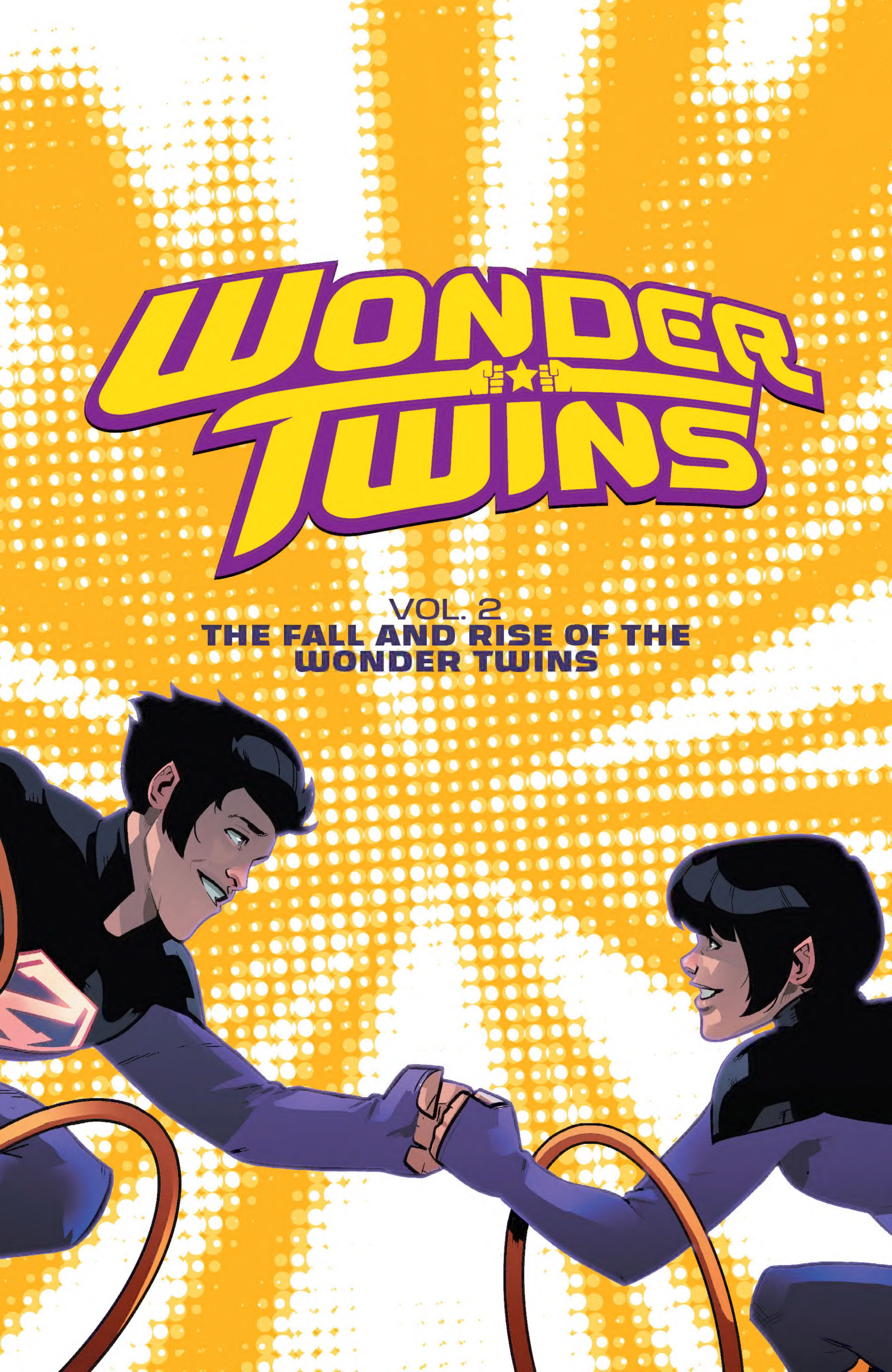
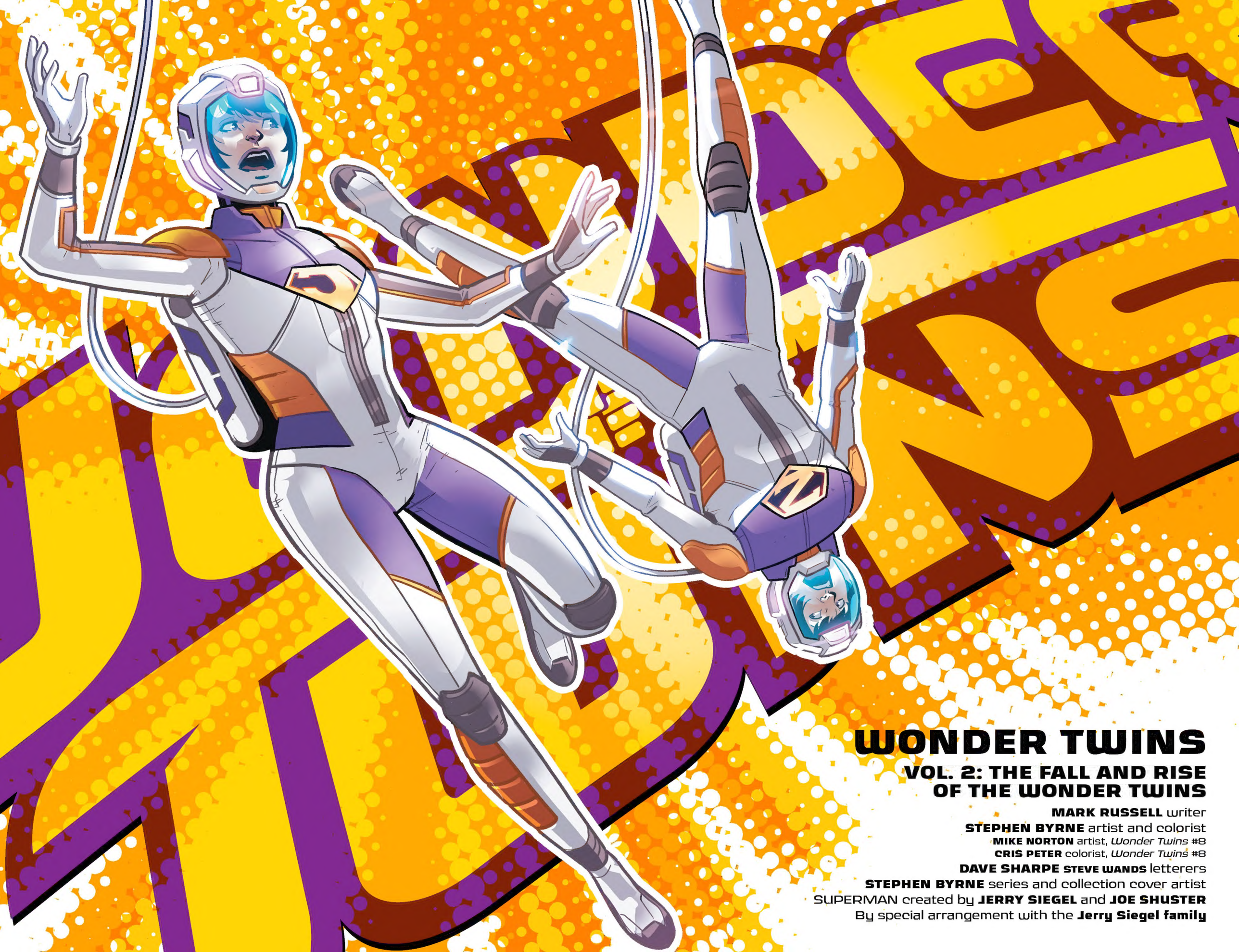
WONDER COMICS


WONDER TWINS
VOL. 2
THE FALL AND RISE OF THE WONDER TWINS



WONDER TWINS

VOL. 2: THE FALL AND RISE OF THE WONDER TWINS

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WONDER TWINS VOL. 2: THE FALL AND RISE OF THE WONDER TWINS

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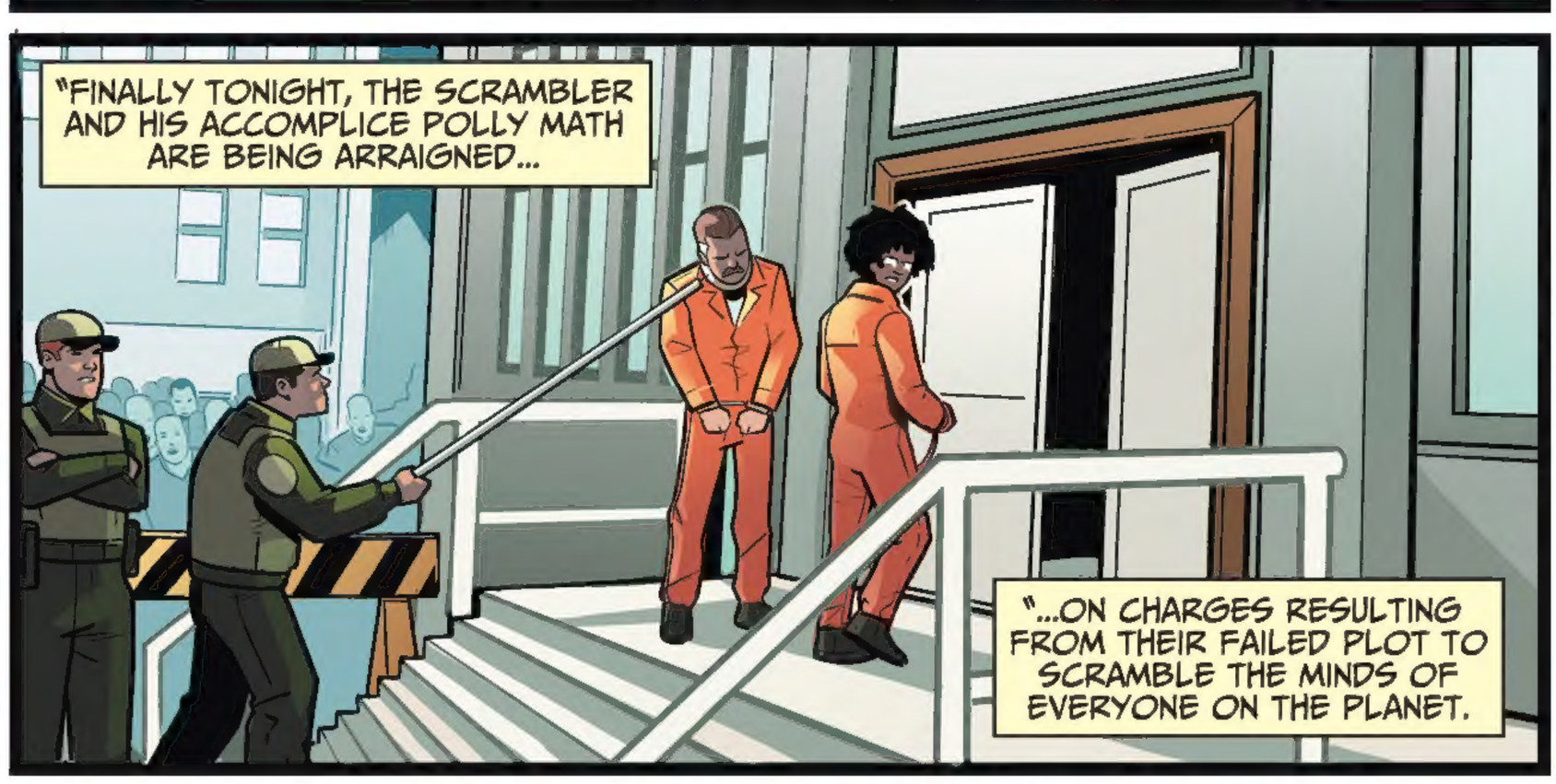
I'M TYLER TATE, AND WELCOME TO WORD ON WASHINGTON!

THE HALL OF JUSTICE WILL NOW START GIVING SPECIAL V.I.P. TOURS!
IT'S A CHANCE TO GIVE PEOPLE AN EVEN DEEPER LOOK INTO THE HALL OF JUSTICE. TO IMPROVE OUR TRANSPARENCY TO THE PUBLIC.
JUSTICE
"IN OTHER GOOD NEWS...

"THE ICE CUBES RETURN HOME AFTER WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP!
"HORDES OF FANS ARE HEADING DOWNTOWN TO CELEBRATE WITH THE TEAM. GO, ICE CUBES!
34

DAMN, I GOTTA SAY... TODAY WAS A GOOD DAY.


"FINALLY TONIGHT, THE SCRAMBLER AND HIS ACCOMPLICE POLLY MATH ARE BEING ARRAIGNED...
"...ON CHARGES RESULTING FROM THEIR FAILED PLOT TO SCRAMBLE THE MINDS OF EVERYONE ON THE PLANET.

SO THANK YOU, WONDER TWINS! AND I SAY THAT ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US, EXCEPT FOR...YOU KNOW...MAYBE THOSE NEEDING A LIVER TRANSPLANT.
I'M TYLER TATE! AND THIS IS WORD ON WASHINGTON!

MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL.
WOW, ZAN. SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK DOWN THE SCRAMBLER?
WELL, I GOTTA GIVE GREEN LANTERN AND SUPERMAN AN ASSIST... BUT YEAH.
"AS THEY TOOK HIM AWAY, I LOOKED HIM IN THE EYES AND SAID...
I LIKE MY EGGS POACHED.
"HA HA!"
NICE!
YOU'RE A LEGEND, H2O!
OR AT LEAST I WOULD HAVE SAID THAT, IF I HADN'T THOUGHT OF IT FIVE MINUTES LATER.

SO...YOU REALLY SEEM TO BE SOAKING IT UP.
LIKE A SPONGE, JAYNA!
YOU'RE NOT?

"ZAN, MY BEST FRIEND IS BEHIND BARS AND I FAILED TO STOP HER. TO SAVE HER. SO NO, IT'S NOT EXACTLY ON MY HIGHLIGHT REEL.

"AND SHE WAS JUST LOOKING FOR JUSTICE. FOR HER DAD...AND FOR EVERYONE THIS PLANET CONVENIENTLY IGNORES.
"NOW SHE'S GONE AND IT'S MY FAULT."

I KNOW SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND, BUT YOU CAN'T HOLD YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE. IF YOU RESPECT POLLY, THEN RESPECT HER DECISIONS.
RIGHT OR WRONG, SHE DID WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS BEST, KNOWING THE CONSEQUENCES. THAT'S ALL ANY OF US CAN DO.
I SUPPOSE... THAT MAKES SENSE.
SENIOR PHOTOS
SUPER CHEAP!

WOW. IT DID, DIDN'T IT?
I AM TOTALLY ON A ROLL.

THE HALL OF JUSTICE. AFTER SCHOOL.
NEW! VIP TOURS DAILY
HALL OF JUSTICE
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK YOU'VE DONE. FINDING THE SCRAMBLER... VANQUISHING THE LEAGUE OF ANNOYANCE.
BESTIARY RECORD NUMBER 10532: THE ANDORAN ANT. THIS FORMICIDAE HAS NO SENSE OF SMELL, BUT THE OXYGEN-RICH ATMOSPHERE OF ANDOR ALLOWS IT TO GROW TO MANY TIMES THE SIZE OF--
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW, SUPERCOMPUTER.
REALLY, THE TWO OF YOU HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND. I COULDN'T BE PROUDER.
THANKS, SUPERMAN.
THAT SAID, WITH THE LEAGUE OUT OF THE WAY... THERE'S NOT A WHOLE LOT FOR YOU TO DO AROUND HERE.
SO UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU... WELL, YOU'RE BEING TEMPORARILY REASSIGNED.
REASSIGNED?

WONDER TWINS IN TRIALS AND TWINULATIONS

WRITER MARK RUSSELL ARTIST AND COVER ARTIST STEPHEN BYRNE
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE ASSISTANT EDITOR ANDREA SHEA EDITOR ALEX ANTONE GROUP EDITOR BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

CUBES!

CUBES!

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE!

BIFF!

"LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE?"

NAH. WE GOT A GUY FOR SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.

FORT McNAIR, HERMETICALLY SEALED BUNKER.

YOU READY FOR THIS?

THEY ONLY UNLEASH THIS GUY LIKE ONCE A YEAR AND IT STILL FEELS LIKE TOO MUCH.

YOU IN THERE, *REPULSO?*

OH, HI GUYS! I WAS JUST MAKIN' SOME TATER TOTS. WANT ONE?

UH...NO THANKS.

IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU GUYS!

LISTEN, REPULSO. WE GOT A FULL-SCALE HOCKEY RIOT ON OUR HANDS.

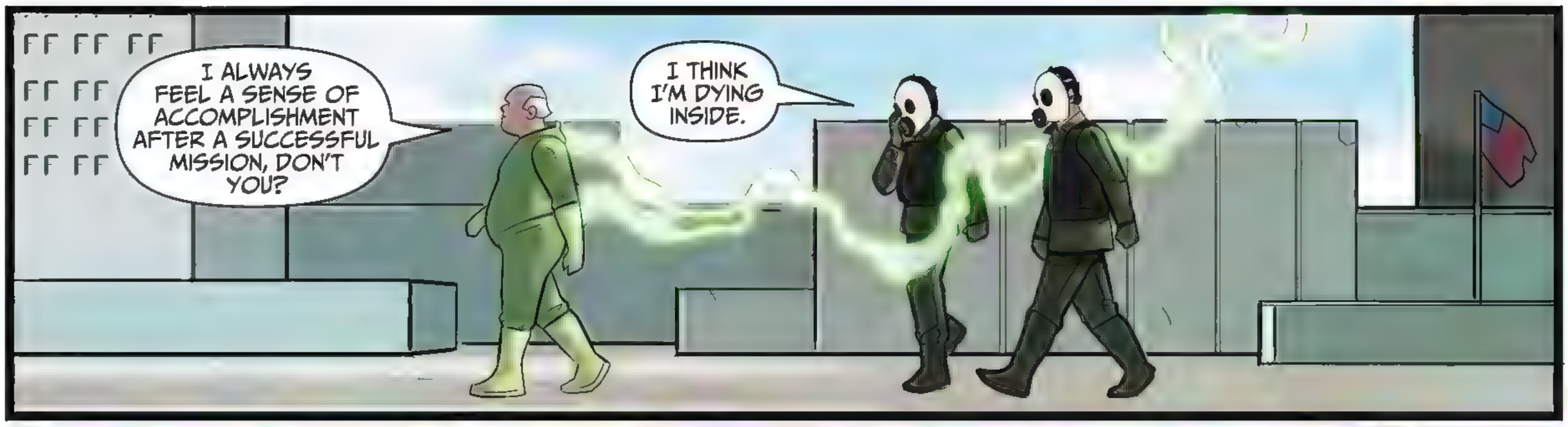
OH MAN. I CAN SMELL HIM. EVEN INSIDE THE GAS MASK...I CAN SMELL HIM.

OH, RIGHT! I MEAN, WHY ELSE... IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D COME JUST TO *VISIT...*

THOUGH IF YOU EVER *DID* WANT TO JUST COME VISIT... THAT WOULD BE *AMAZING.* WE COULD WATCH A MOVIE...OR PLAY A BOARD GAME...I GOT *STRATEGNO!*

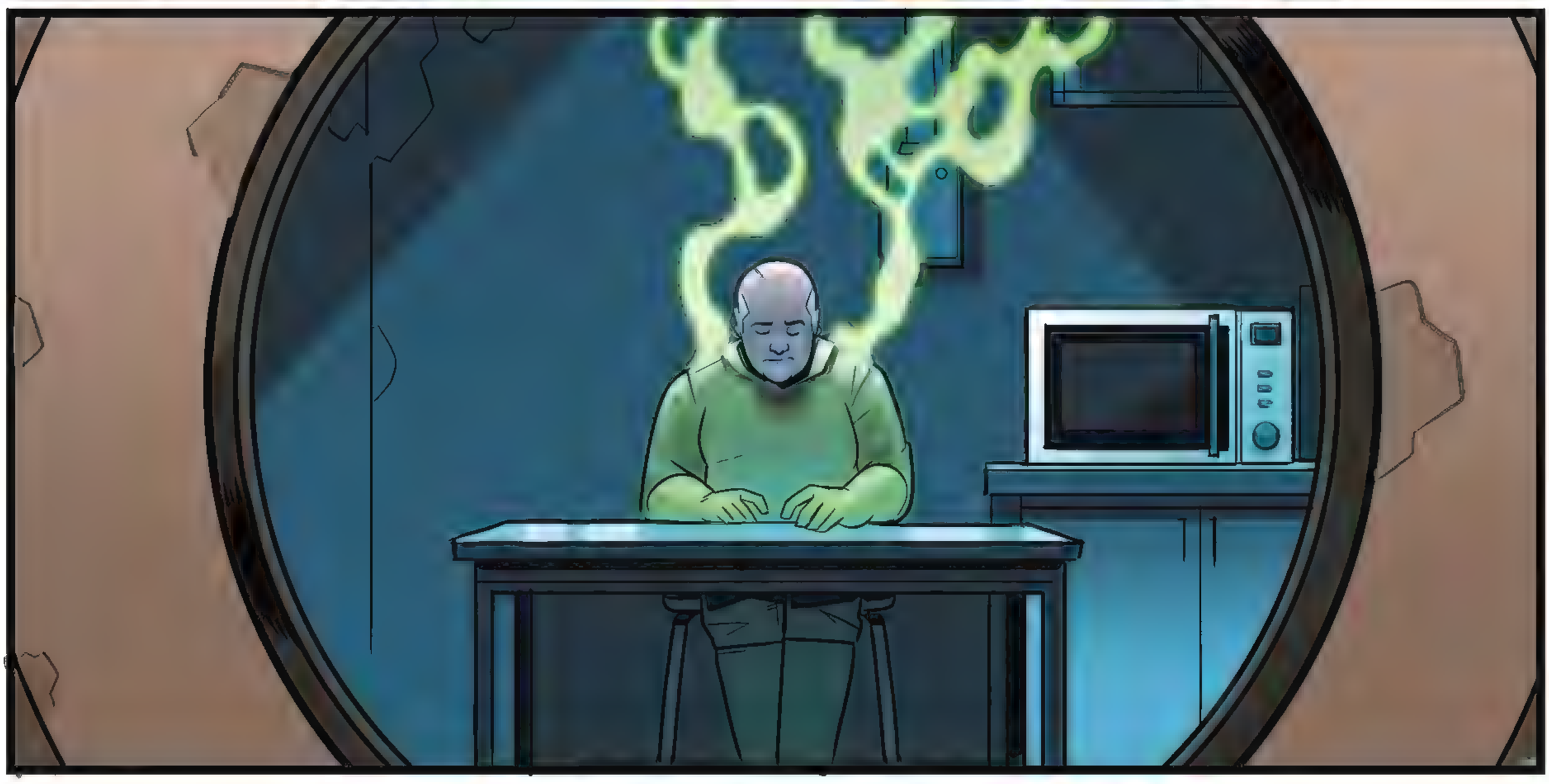
PUT THE HELMET ON. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

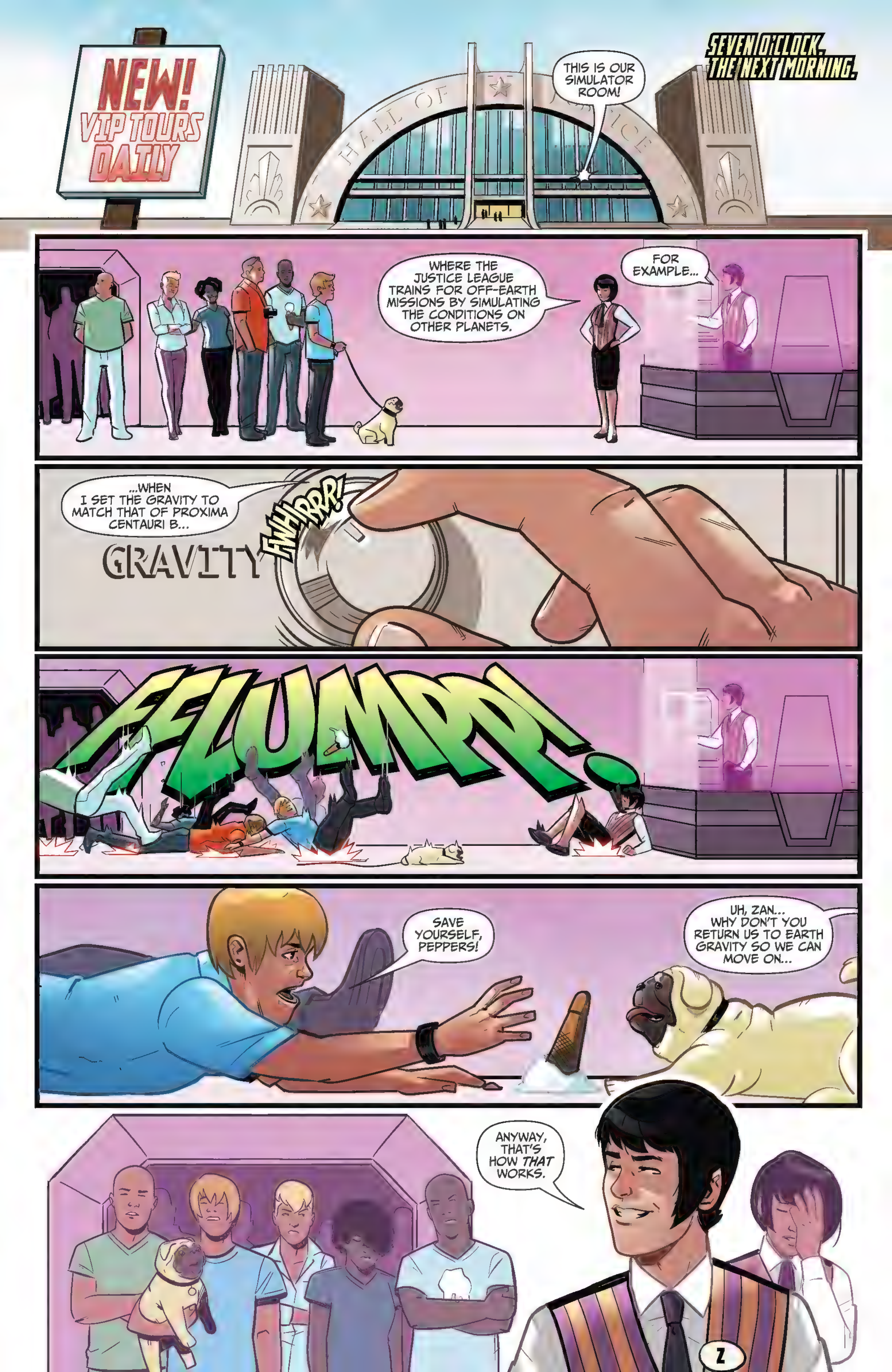
THANKS, FRIENDS! SEE YOU SOON!
I'M GOING TO NEED TO BATHE IN ROSE PETALS AFTER THIS.
HELLO... CITIZENS?
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?!
IT'S COMING FROM HIM!
I CAN'T HELP IT, SIR. IT'S A GENETIC COND--- OUCH! GOOD SHOT, SIR!
AS I WAS SAYING, IF YOU COULD, YOU KNOW... SORT OF DISPERSE?
SMASH!
DAMN IT. HE'S TOO HIGH.
OH GOD, IT'S LIKE... LIKE BURNT HAIR ON A ROTTING APE.
LET'S GO HOME!

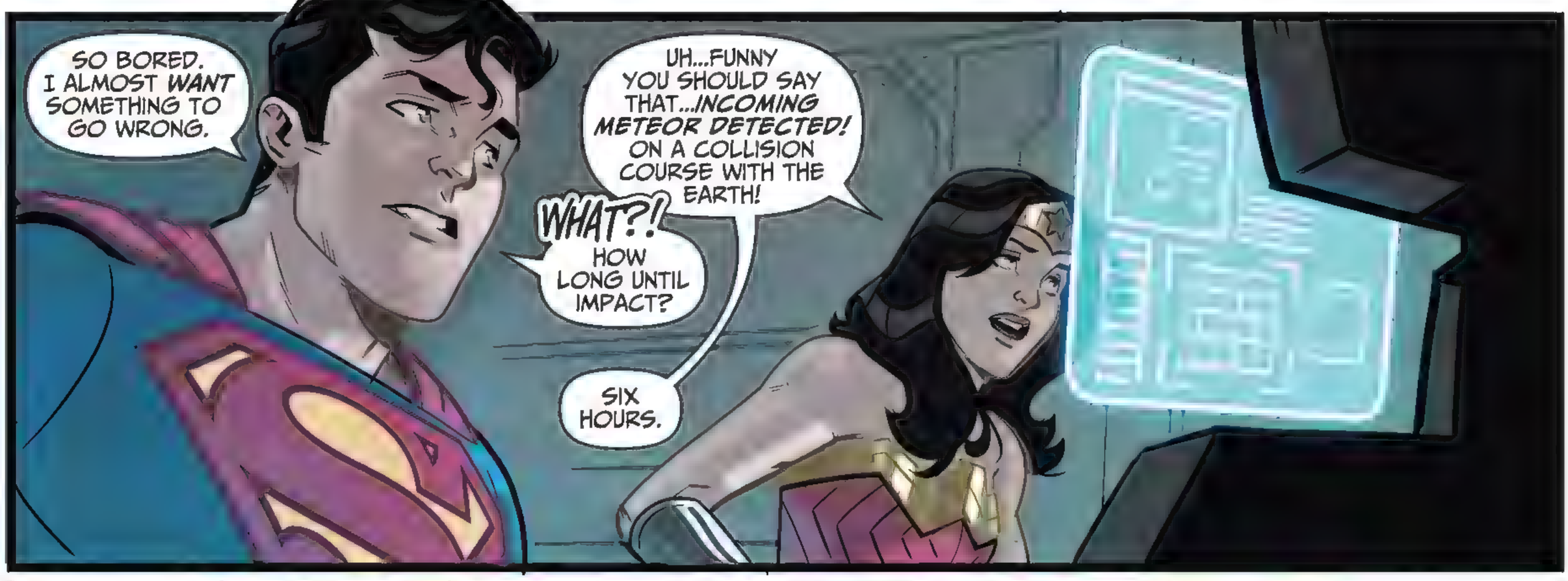

I ALWAYS FEEL A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AFTER A SUCCESSFUL MISSION, DON'T YOU?
I THINK I'M DYING INSIDE.

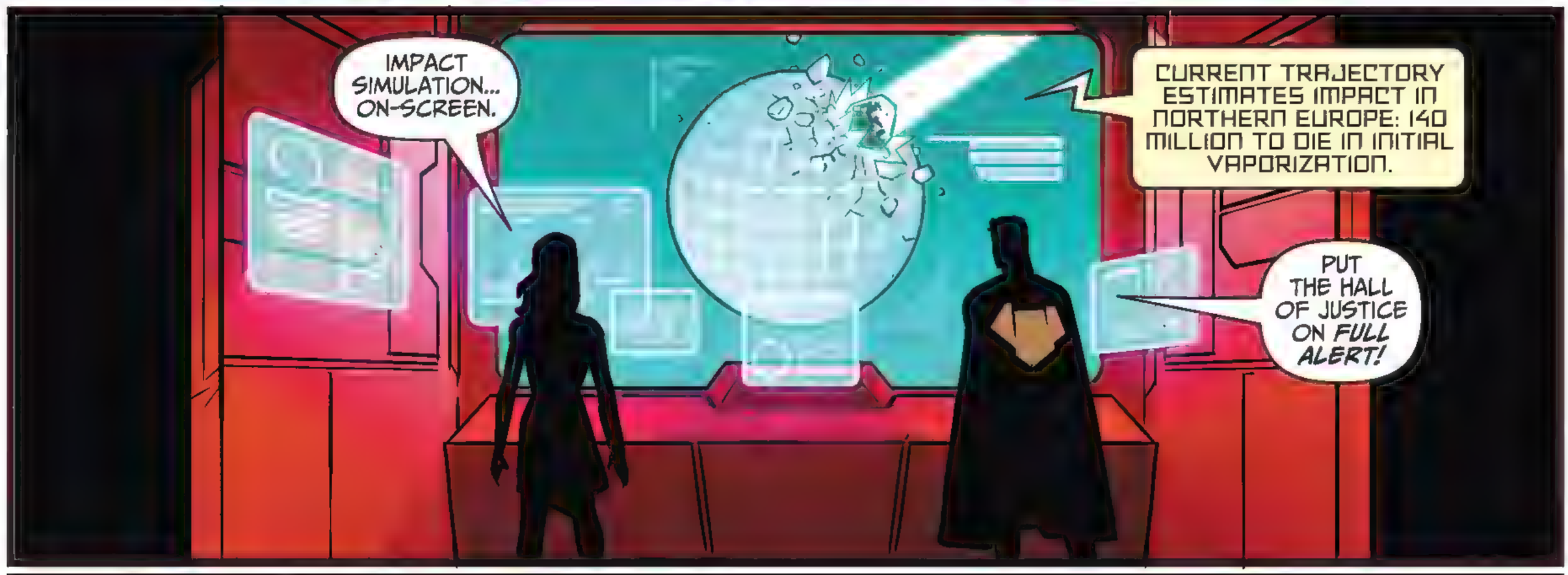
HEY, WE SHOULD CELEBRATE! MAYBE GET SOME *TACOS!*
I MEAN, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BASE, BUT YOU COULD GET SOME AND BRING THEM OVER TO *MY PLACE!*
I THINK WE'LL PASS.

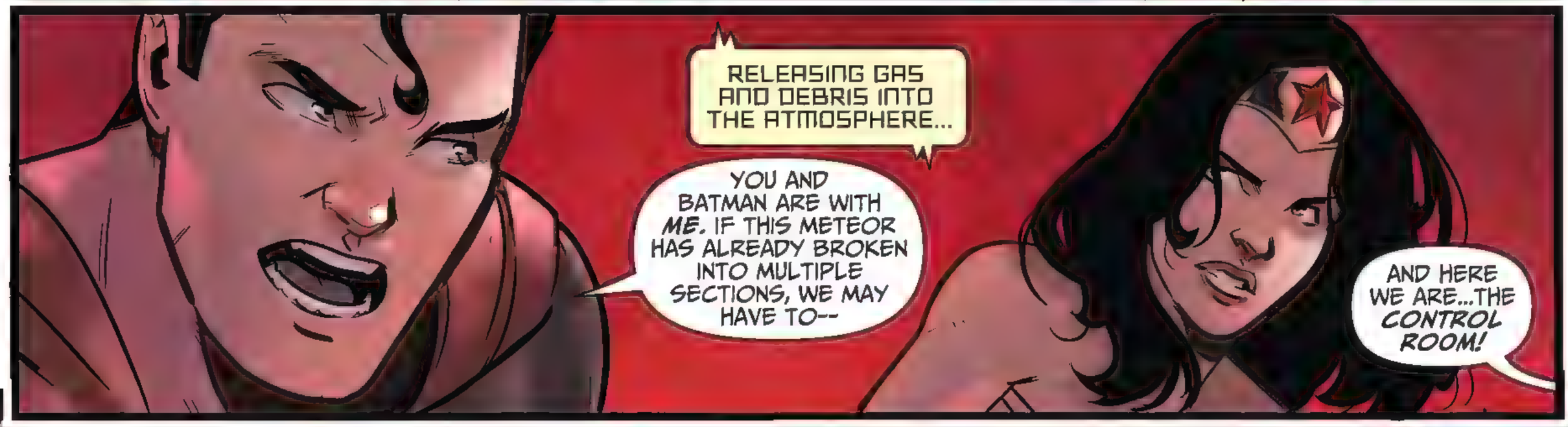
ARE YOU SURE? I'VE GOT *STEEL MAGNOLIAS* ON BLU-RAY!
WE GOTTA SPLIT. GOOD WORK, REPULSO.
OKAY THEN...




NEW! VIP TOURS DAILY
HALL OF JUSTICE
THIS IS OUR SIMULATOR ROOM!
SEVEN O'CLOCK, THE NEXT MORNING.
WHERE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TRAINS FOR OFF-EARTH MISSIONS BY SIMULATING THE CONDITIONS ON OTHER PLANETS.
FOR EXAMPLE...
...WHEN I SET THE GRAVITY TO MATCH THAT OF PROXIMA CENTAURI B...
GRAVITY
FWHIRRR!
FLUMPP!
SAVE YOURSELF, PEPPERS!
UH, ZAN... WHY DON'T YOU RETURN US TO EARTH GRAVITY SO WE CAN MOVE ON...
ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW THAT WORKS.
Z

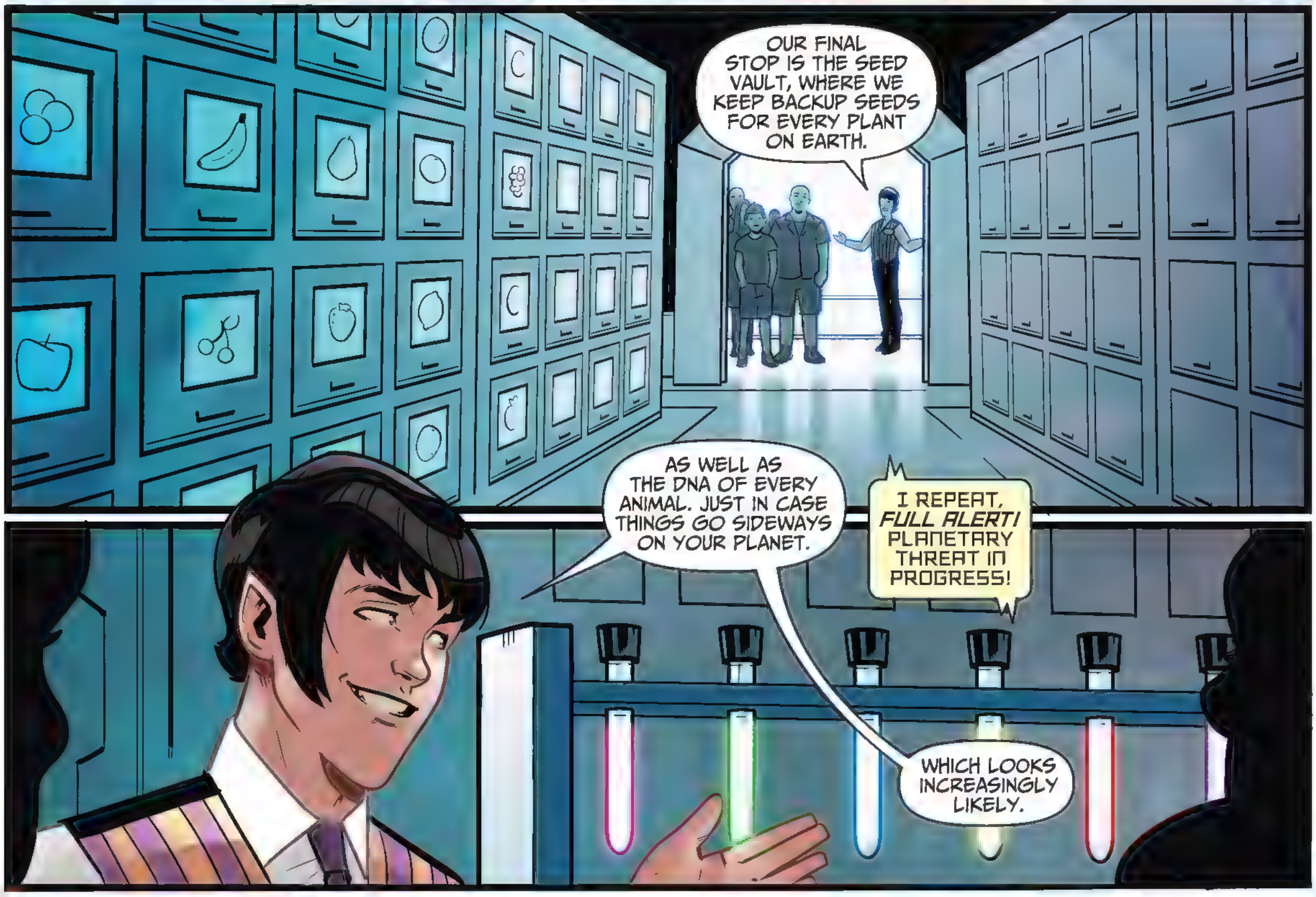

SO BORED. I ALMOST WANT SOMETHING TO GO WRONG.
UH...FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT...INCOMING METEOR DETECTED! ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE EARTH!
WHAT?! HOW LONG UNTIL IMPACT?
SIX HOURS.


IMPACT SIMULATION... ON-SCREEN.
CURRENT TRAJECTORY ESTIMATES IMPACT IN NORTHERN EUROPE: 140 MILLION TO DIE IN INITIAL VAPORIZATION.
PUT THE HALL OF JUSTICE ON FULL ALERT!


RELEASING GAS AND DEBRIS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE...
YOU AND BATMAN ARE WITH ME. IF THIS METEOR HAS ALREADY BROKEN INTO MULTIPLE SECTIONS, WE MAY HAVE TO--
AND HERE WE ARE...THE CONTROL ROOM!

THE NERVE CENTER OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE!
UH... THIS IS A BAD TIME, KIDS.
ANOTHER TWO BILLION TO DIE IN THE FIRESTORMS AND TIDAL WAVES THAT FOLLOW.

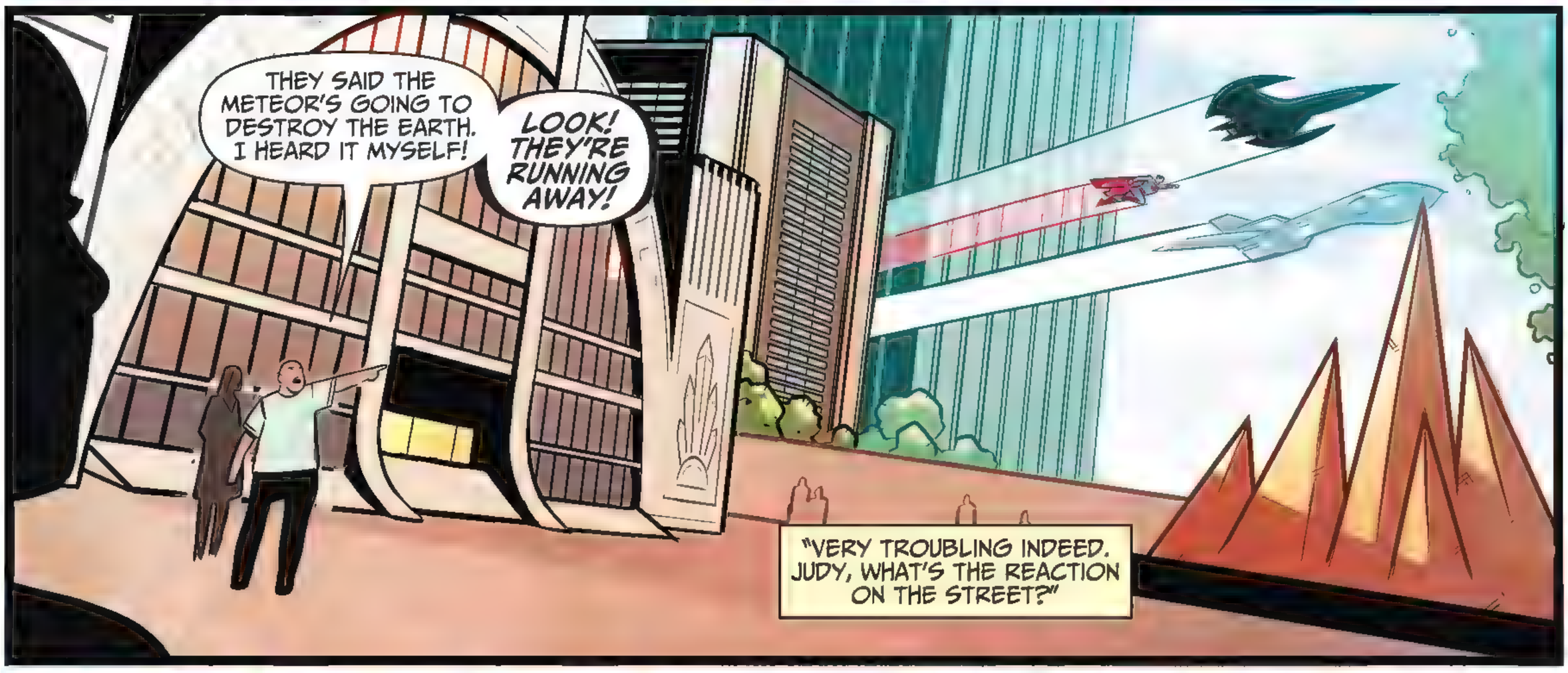
TOTAL EXTINCTION OF LIFE ON EARTH WITHIN *FIVE HOURS.*
WAIT. WHAT WAS THAT?
OKAY THEN, LET'S *MOVE ON!* TRY TO FORGET EVERYTHING YOU SAW HERE, FOLKS!
Z


OUR FINAL STOP IS THE SEED VAULT, WHERE WE KEEP BACKUP SEEDS FOR EVERY PLANT ON EARTH.
AS WELL AS THE DNA OF EVERY ANIMAL. JUST IN CASE THINGS GO SIDEWAYS ON YOUR PLANET.
I REPEAT, *FULL ALERT!* PLANETARY THREAT IN PROGRESS!
WHICH LOOKS INCREASINGLY LIKELY.

WELL, I HOPE YOU FOUND THIS TOUR TO BE EDUCATIONAL *AND* FUN. ANY *QUESTIONS?*

OH, SORRY. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE OUT OF TIME!
METEOR COLLISION IMMINENT!

SEVERAL VISITORS TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE CONFIRM THE REPORTS OF A METEOR HURTLING TOWARD EARTH.
LEX NEWS
METEOR CRASH IMMINENT
WHERE ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
LEXLINE
3:02PM
KEN GROTTLE


THEY SAID THE METEOR'S GOING TO DESTROY THE EARTH. I HEARD IT MYSELF!
LOOK! THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY!
"VERY TROUBLING INDEED. JUDY, WHAT'S THE REACTION ON THE STREET?"

BOOOOOOM!
GO CUBES!
CRASH!
THIS IS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE!
ABOUT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT, KEN.
RRAAAAGH!

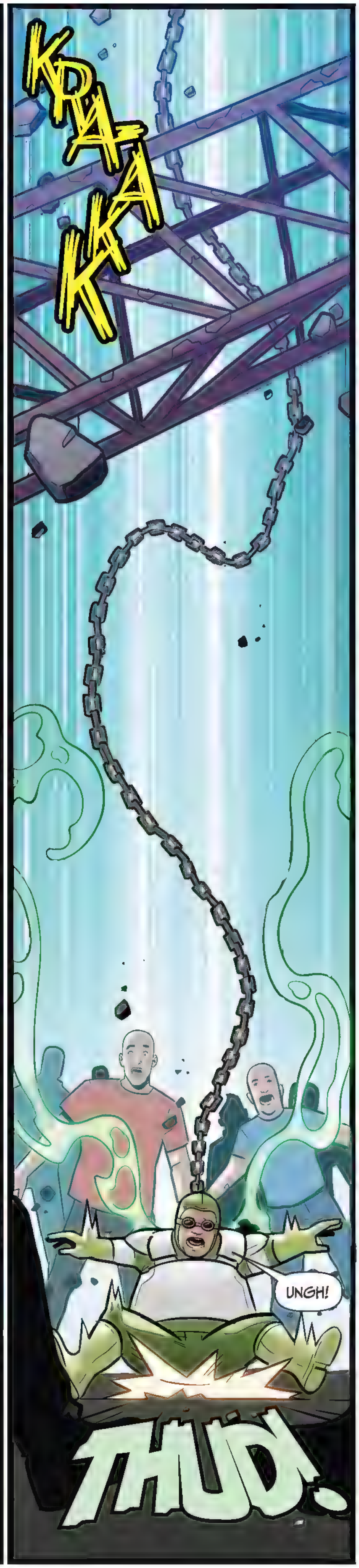
UGH. AGAIN?!
THE SMELL IS ALREADY IN MY MOUTH.

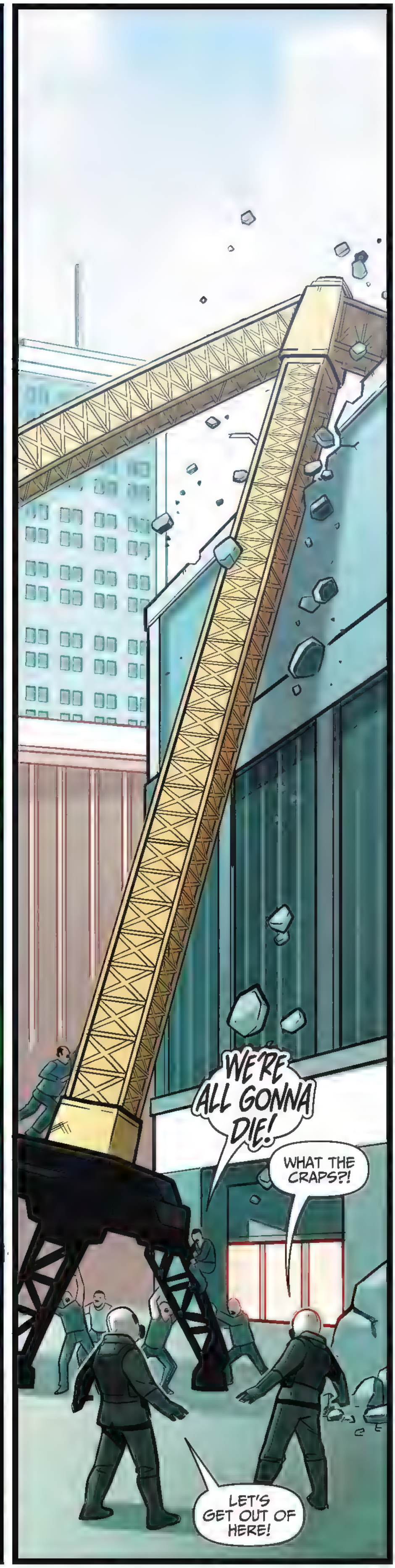
WOW. TWO DAYS IN A ROW? REALLY?
STRATEGNO

OH MAN, I LOVE GETTING OUT OF THAT BUNKER... THE AIR IS GREAT OUT HERE! AND I LIKE THE HUMAN CONTACT. YOU KNOW, WORKING WITH PEOPLE.
LIFT YOUR ARMS.

MOSTLY, THOUGH, I LIKE SEEING YOU GUYS. HANK, GARY... I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE EVER TOLD YOU THIS...BUT YOU'RE MY BEST FRIENDS.
ALL RIGHT, HOIST HIM AWAY!

HI, FRIENDS. I'M HERE TO HELP, SO IF YOU COULD GO EASY ON THE BOTTLES.
REMEMBER... WE'RE ALL PASSENGERS HERE ON SPACESHIP EARTH--
SMASH!
YOU COWARDS!


KRAKA
UNGH!
THUD!


WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
WHAT THE CRAPS?!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

"THIS IS PRINCIPAL TURNER, SIGNING OUT. IT'S BEEN AN HONOR EDUCATING YOU. ALSO, I HEAR THERE'S A RIOT DOWNTOWN, IF ANYONE FEELS LIKE JOINING."

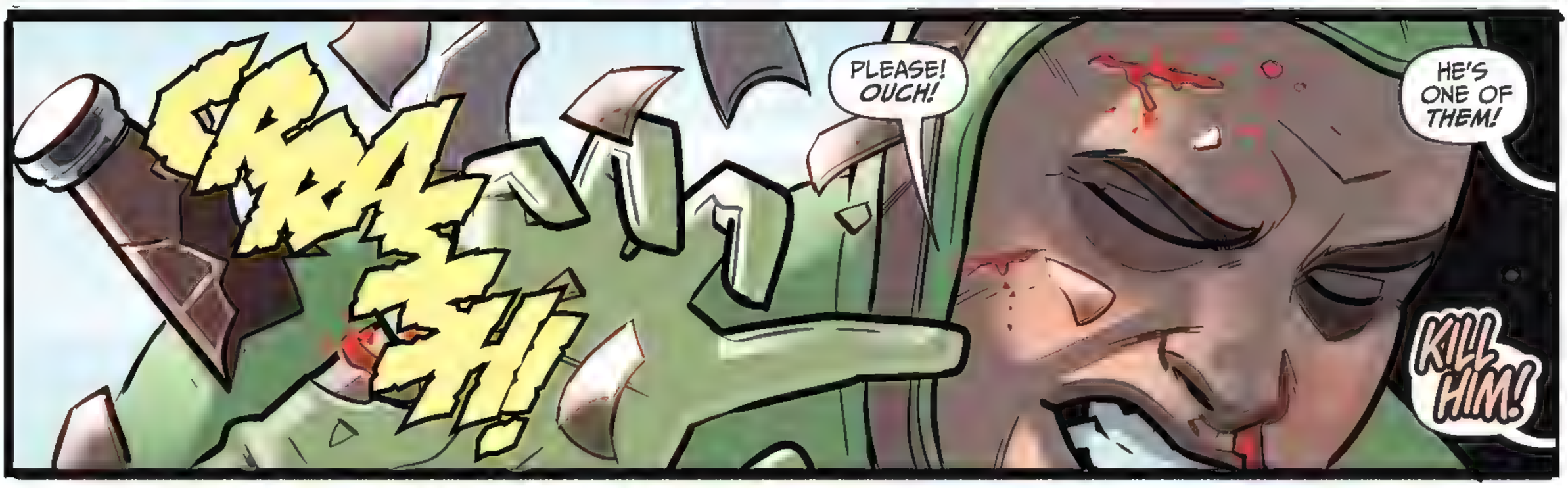
WE'D BETTER GET DOWN THERE BEFORE PEOPLE DO ANYTHING STUPID.

WONDER TWIN POWERS...

ACTIVATE!

WHERE'S SUPERMAN? WHERE'S BATMAN?
I DON'T KNOW! NOBODY TELLS ME ANYTHING!
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE JUST LEFT US HERE TO DIE!
FRIENDS, IF WE COULD JUST...

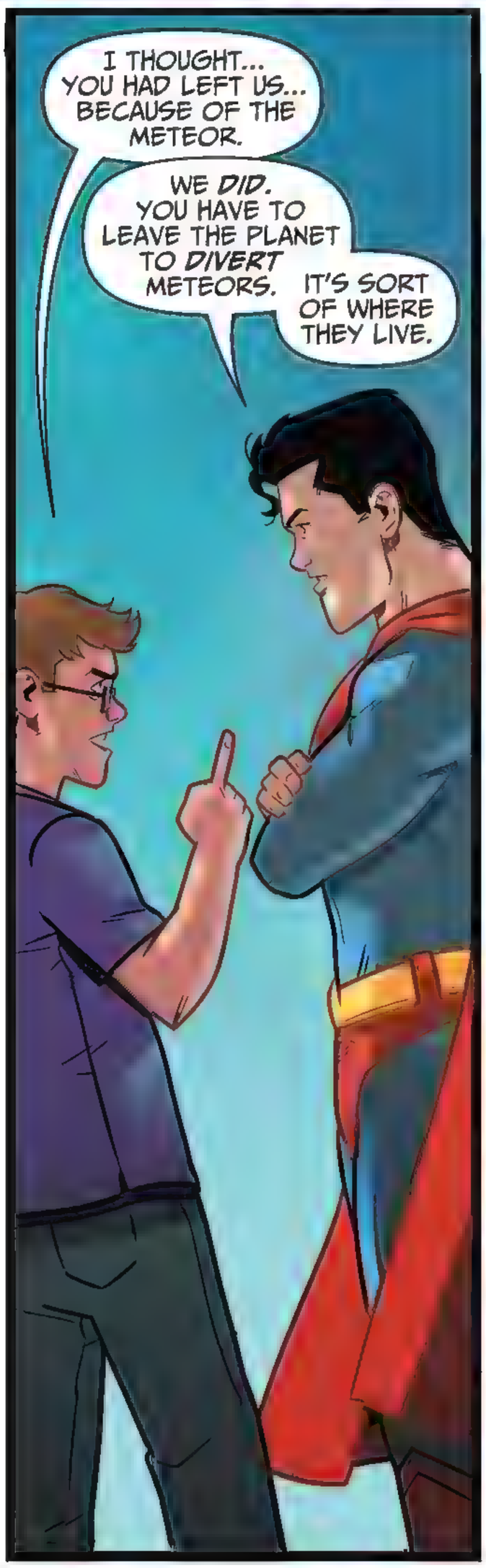
TAKE THAT, ARMPIT!


PLEASE! OUCH!
HE'S ONE OF THEM!
KILL HIM!

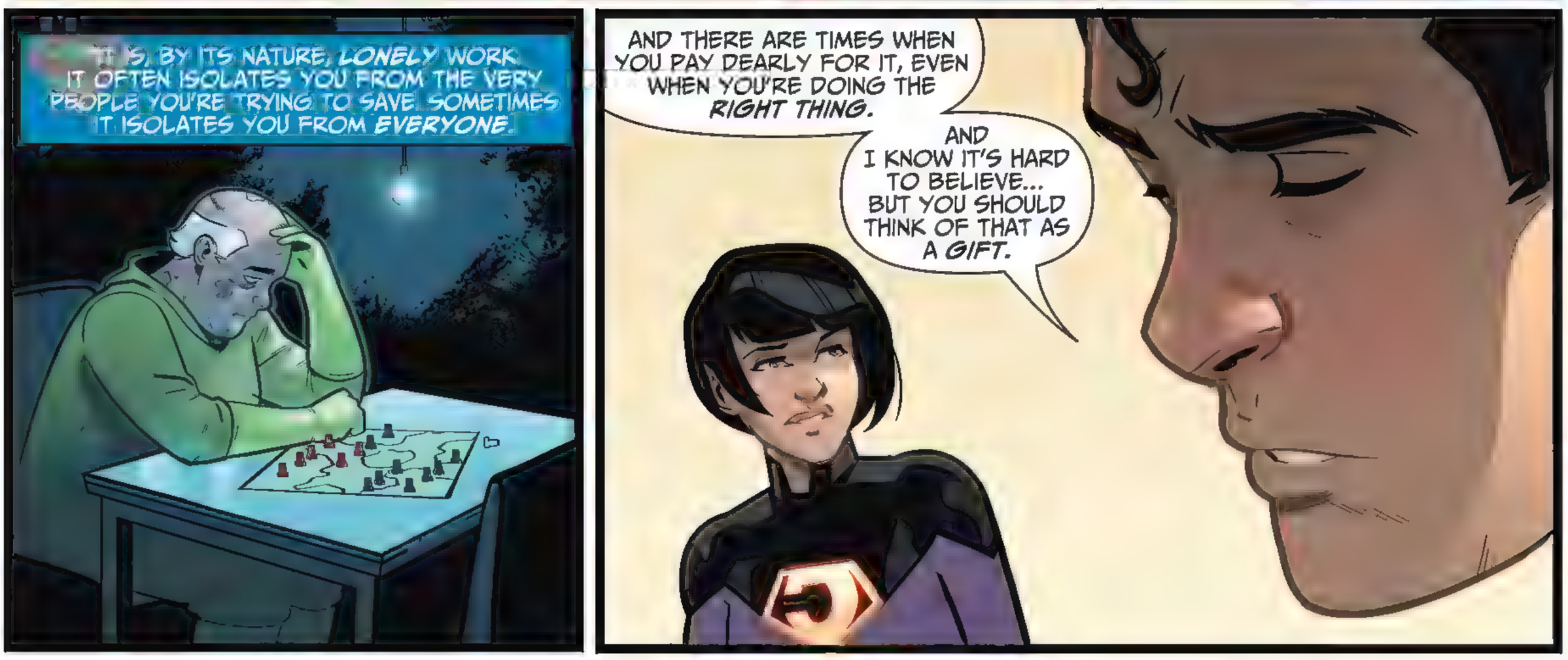
STOMP!STOMP!
HUH...?

OH MAN... I'M A CLOUD AND I CAN SMELL IT!
SOMF!
I AM SO GLAD THIS ANT DOESN'T HAVE ANY OLFACTORY SENSES.
LOOK OUT! DEATH ANT!
RUN!
KRAKOOM!
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLEASE. I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
LEAVE THIS POOR MAN ALONE!
SHOO, ANGRY MOB. SHOO!
COME, FELLOW RIOTERS. LET US TAKE OUR DISPLEASURE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE!

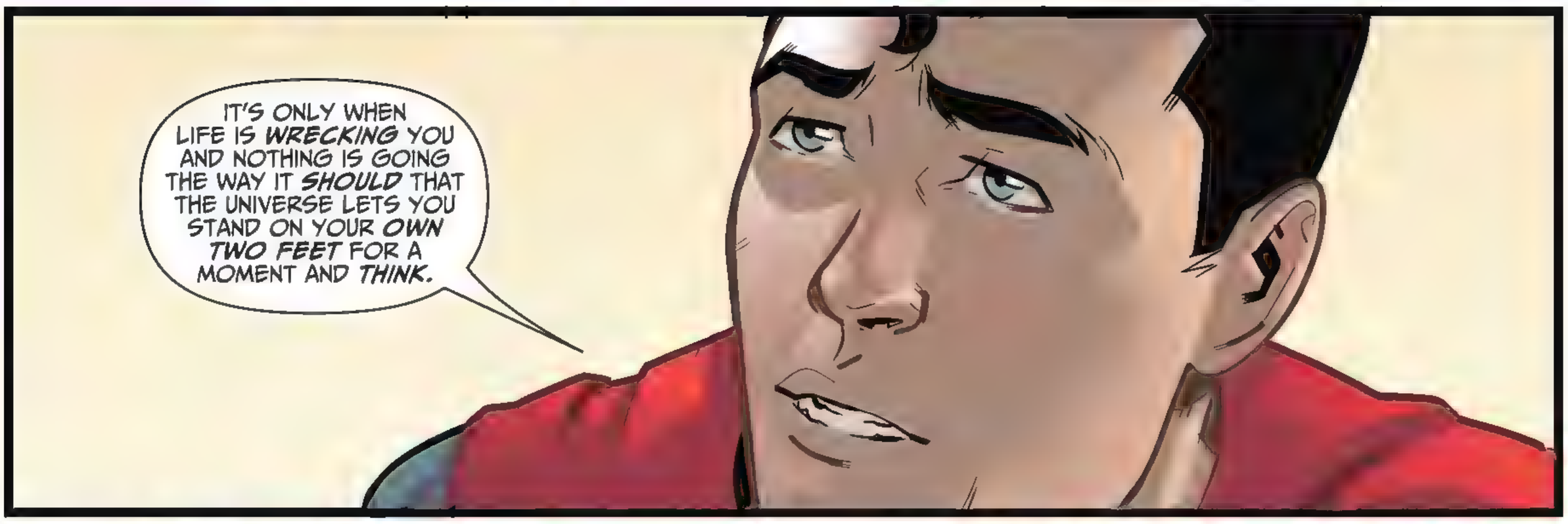
I'M SORRY. YOU'RE GOING *WHERE?!*

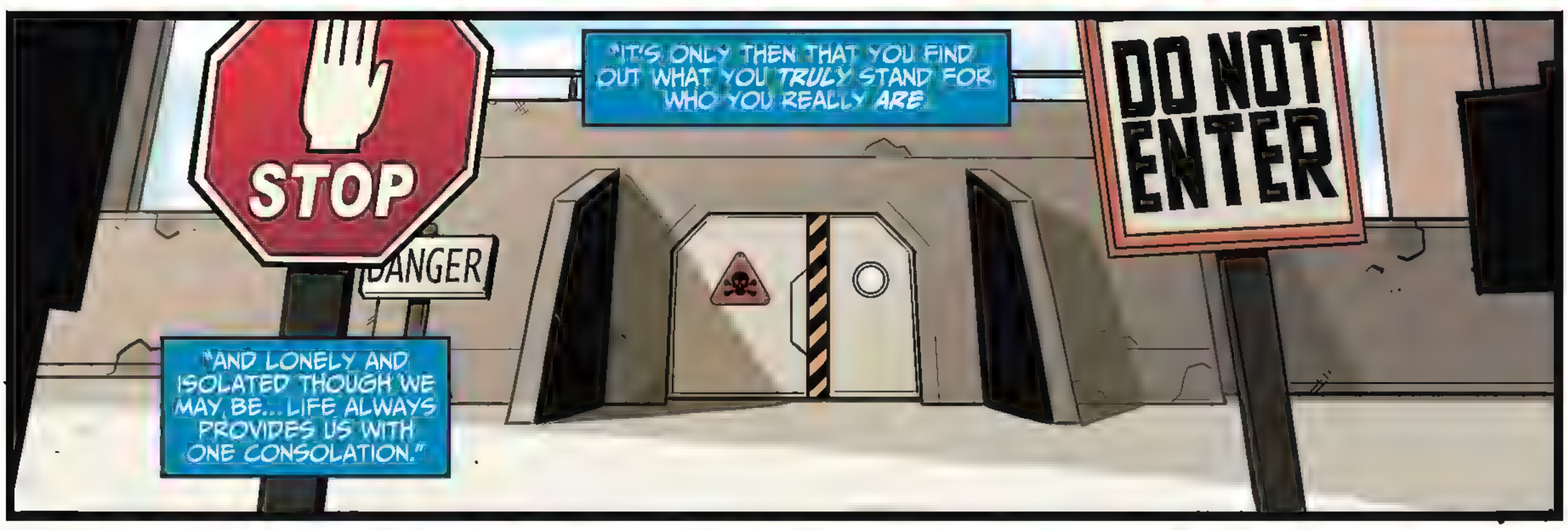


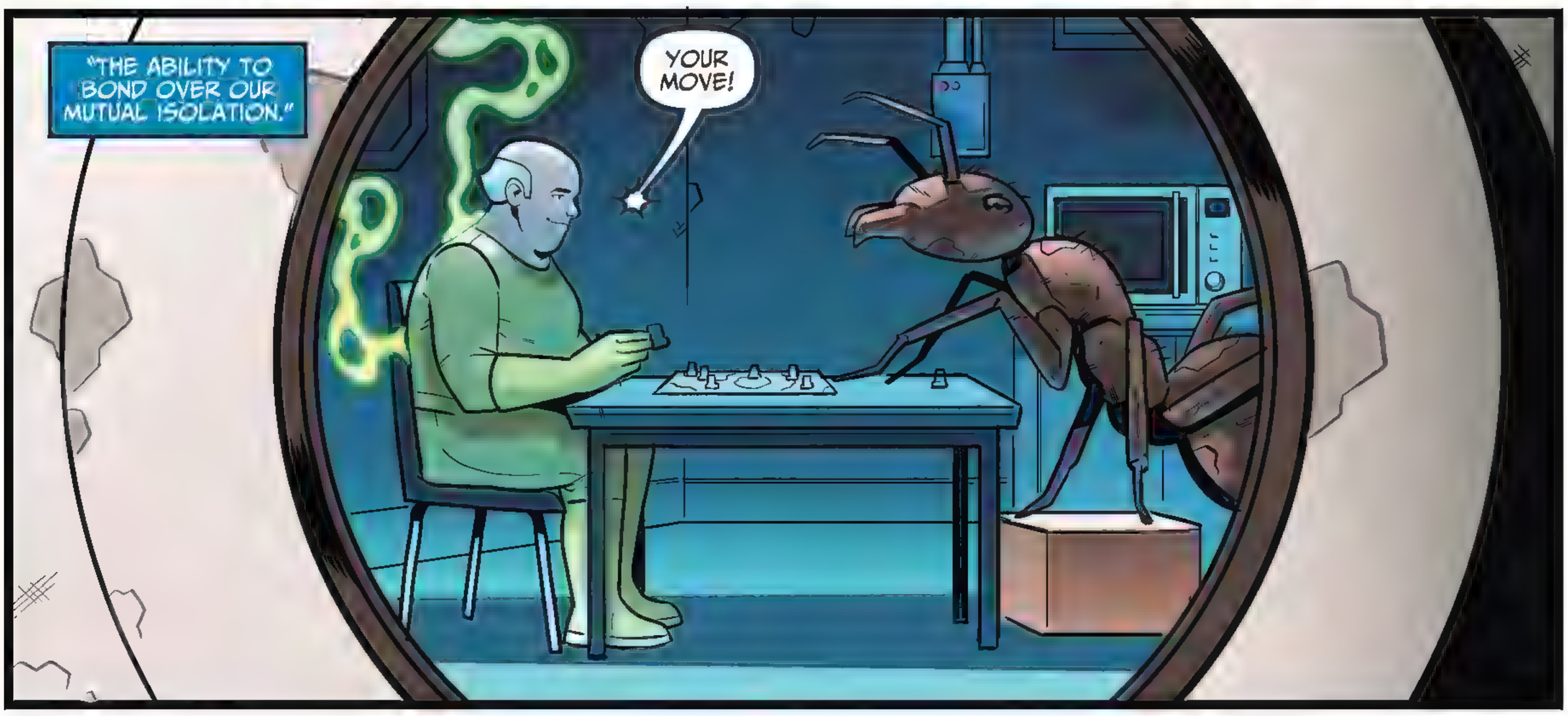
MAN, WHAT A DAY.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
SOMETHING WRONG, JAYNA?
WELL, I MEAN, NOTHING COMPARED TO THE SPACE-BORNE ANNIHILATION OF THE EARTH...
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT. TELL ME ABOUT IT.
I LOST MY BEST FRIEND WHEN WE ARRESTED THE SCRAMBLER. I'VE BEEN DEMOTED TO TOUR GUIDE. EVEN ZAN IS TOO BUSY FOR ME NOW THAT HE'S A HERO.
I DON'T GET IT. I DID EVERYTHING I WAS SUPPOSED TO. AND THIS IS MY REWARD?
HEROES DON'T WORK FOR REWARDS, JAYNA. TRUST ME, THIS JOB CAN BE ANYTHING BUT REWARDING.

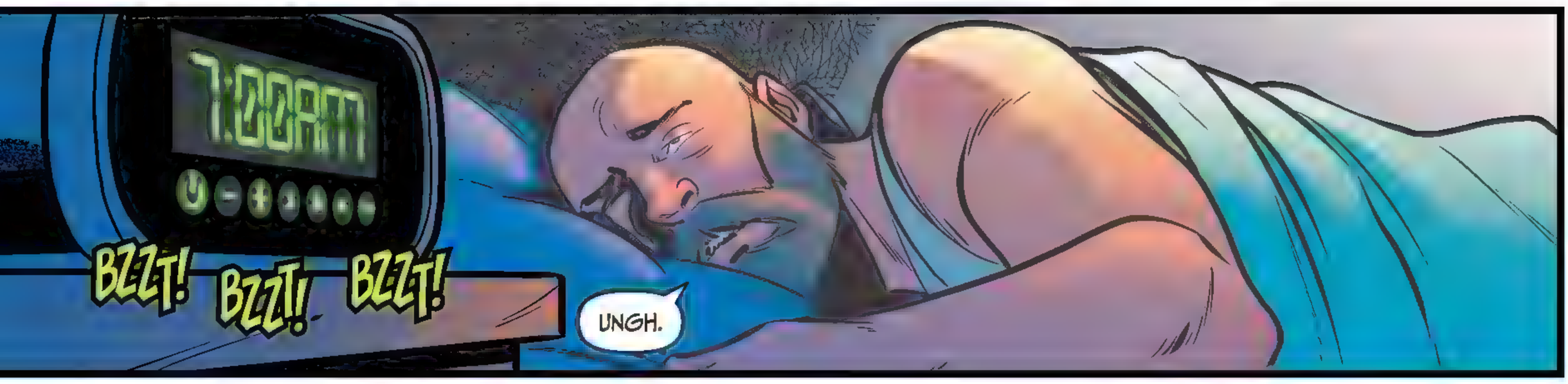

IT'S, BY ITS NATURE, LONELY WORK. IT OFTEN ISOLATES YOU FROM THE VERY PEOPLE YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE. SOMETIMES IT ISOLATES YOU FROM EVERYONE.
AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU PAY DEARLY FOR IT, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.
AND I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE... BUT YOU SHOULD THINK OF THAT AS A GIFT.

"IT'S EASY TO KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE VALIDATION IS FLOWING.
"ANY DOG KNOWS IT SHOULD ROLL OVER WHILE TREATS ARE IN PLAY.


IT'S ONLY WHEN LIFE IS *WRECKING* YOU AND NOTHING IS GOING THE WAY IT *SHOULD* THAT THE UNIVERSE LETS YOU STAND ON YOUR *OWN TWO FEET* FOR A MOMENT AND *THINK*.

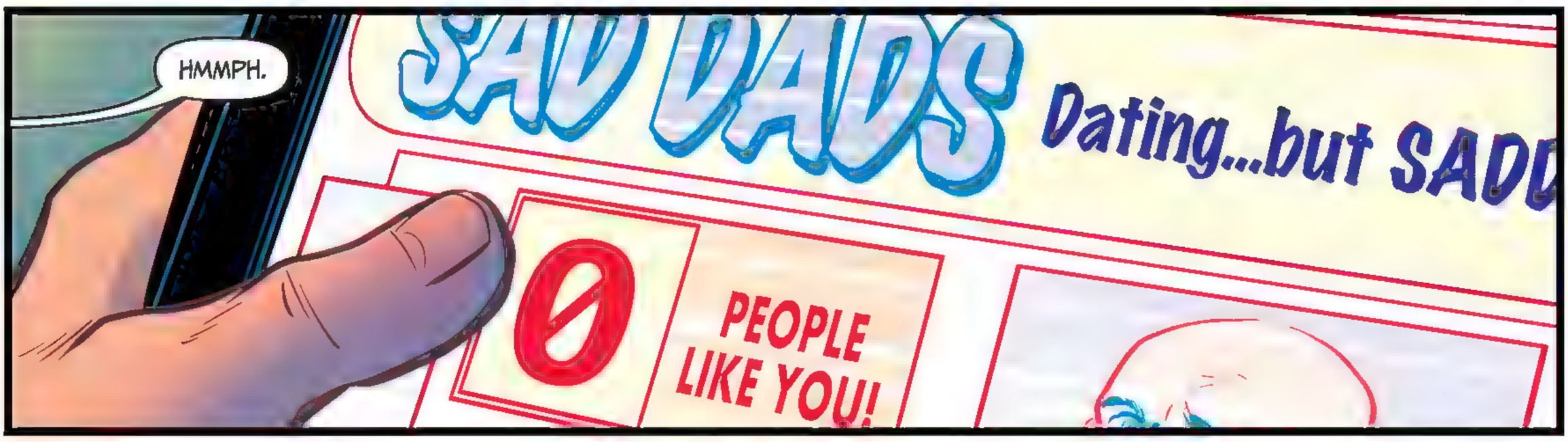

"IT'S ONLY THEN THAT YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU *TRULY* STAND FOR, WHO YOU REALLY *ARE*.
STOP
DANGER
DO NOT ENTER
"AND LONELY AND ISOLATED THOUGH WE MAY BE... LIFE ALWAYS PROVIDES US WITH ONE CONSOLATION."


"THE ABILITY TO BOND OVER OUR MUTUAL ISOLATION."
YOUR MOVE!


7:00AM
BZZT! BZZT! BZZT!
UNGH.

AGING IS WAKING UP EVERY MORNING WONDERING IF THIS IS AS GOOD AS YOU'RE GOING TO GET.

YOU CAN DO IT!
CLICK CLICK


HMMPH.
SAD DADS
Dating...but SADD
0
PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

WHAT FRESH INSULT FROM THE UNIVERSE REQUIRES MY ATTENTION NOW?
RRIIIPPP

-GROAN-
CLASS OF 1989
30 Year High School Reunion!
M
Casino! Prizes!
80 s Tribute Bands!
RSVP Today!
Contact the Reunion Committee for more details.
WONDER TWINS IN Reunions
WRITER MARK RUSSELL
ARTIST MIKE NORTON
COLORIST CRIS PETER
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
COVER ARTIST STEPHEN BYRNE
ASSISTANT EDITOR ANDREA SHEA
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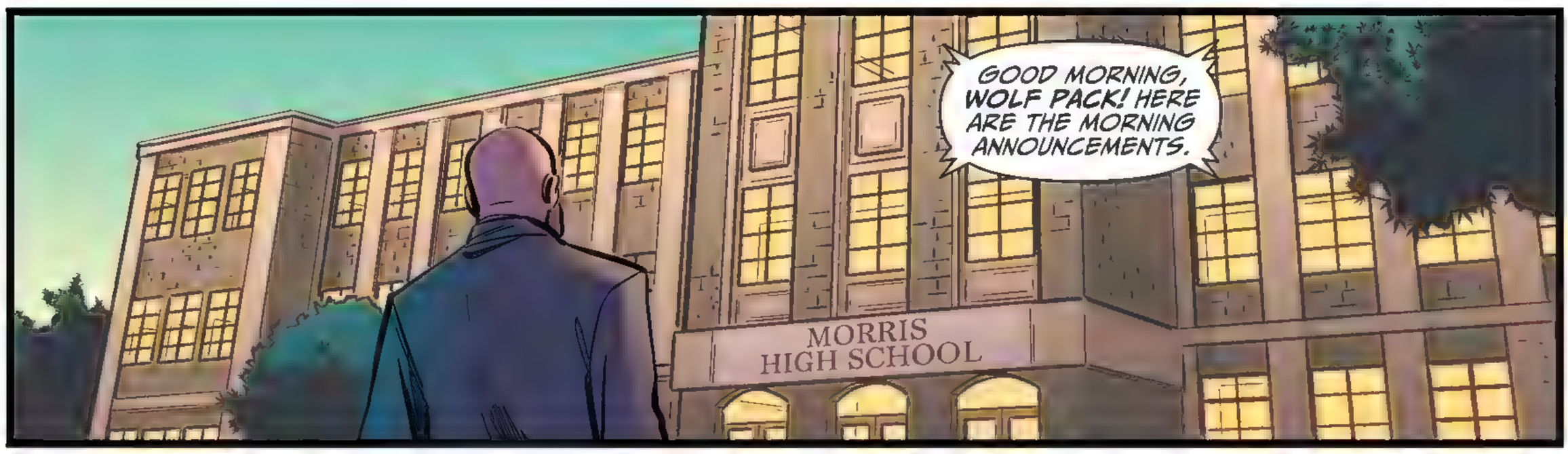
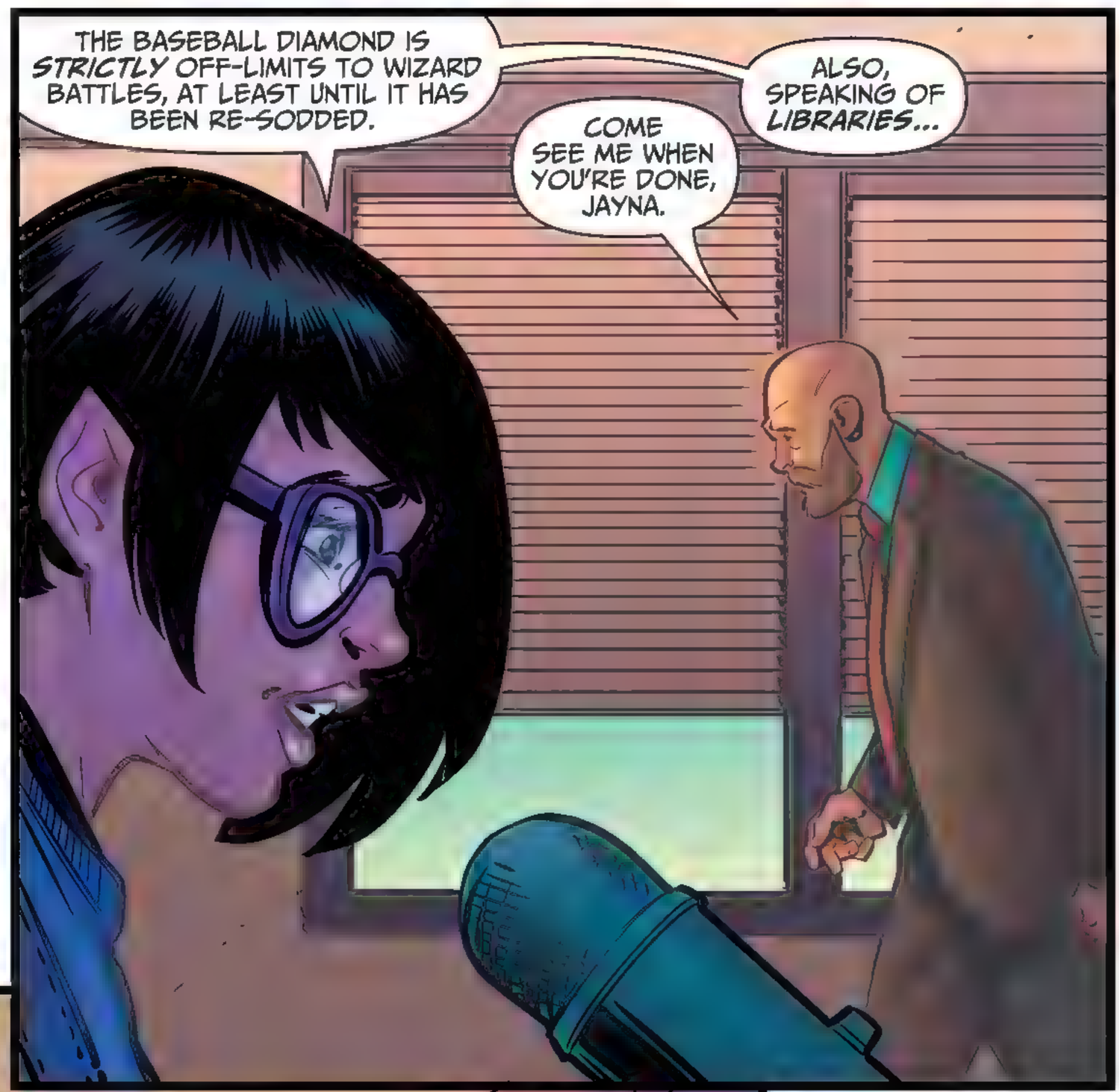
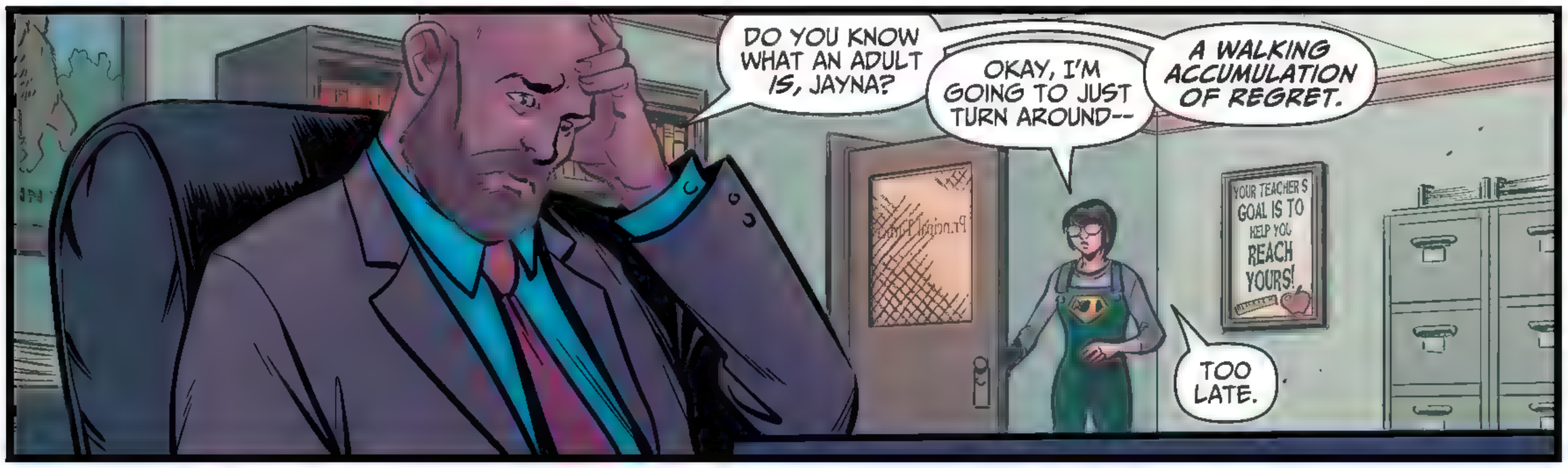

GOOD MORNING, WOLF PACK! HERE ARE THE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS.
MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL

THE ADMINISTRATION ASKS THAT YOU RESTRICT ALL DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS GAMES TO THE LIBRARY. NO MATTER, AND I REPEAT, NO MATTER HOW EPIC THEY MAY GET.


THE BASEBALL DIAMOND IS STRICTLY OFF-LIMITS TO WIZARD BATTLES, AT LEAST UNTIL IT HAS BEEN RE-SODDED.
COME SEE ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, JAYNA.
ALSO, SPEAKING OF LIBRARIES...

TODAY IS LIBRARIAN APPRECIATION DAY. SO LET THE LIBRARIAN IN YOUR LIFE KNOW HOW MUCH THEY MEAN TO YOU.
LIBRARIES ARE, AFTER ALL, OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY.
GUN COP SAYS
READ!
Reunion
THE HARD DRIVE OF CIVILIZATION.

OKAY, I'M DONE WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRINCIPLE TURNER--
--ARE YOU OKAY?


DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN ADULT *IS*, JAYNA?
OKAY, I'M GOING TO JUST TURN AROUND--
A WALKING ACCUMULATION OF REGRET.
YOUR TEACHER'S GOAL IS TO HELP YOU REACH YOURS!
TOO LATE.

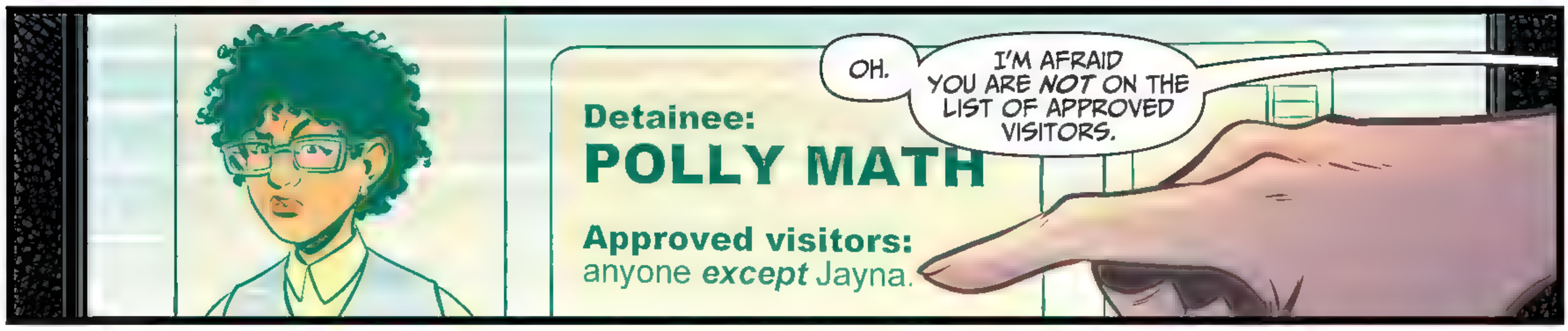
"TERRI THE LIBRARIAN AND I WERE ONCE VERY MUCH IN LOVE. BUT I *BLEW* IT. I LEFT HER AND IT WAS THE *WORST* DECISION OF MY LIFE. IT'S ONE THING TO WORK TOGETHER...
"...BUT I CAN'T FACE HER AT THAT *CLASS REUNION*, JAYNA. I JUST CAN'T."

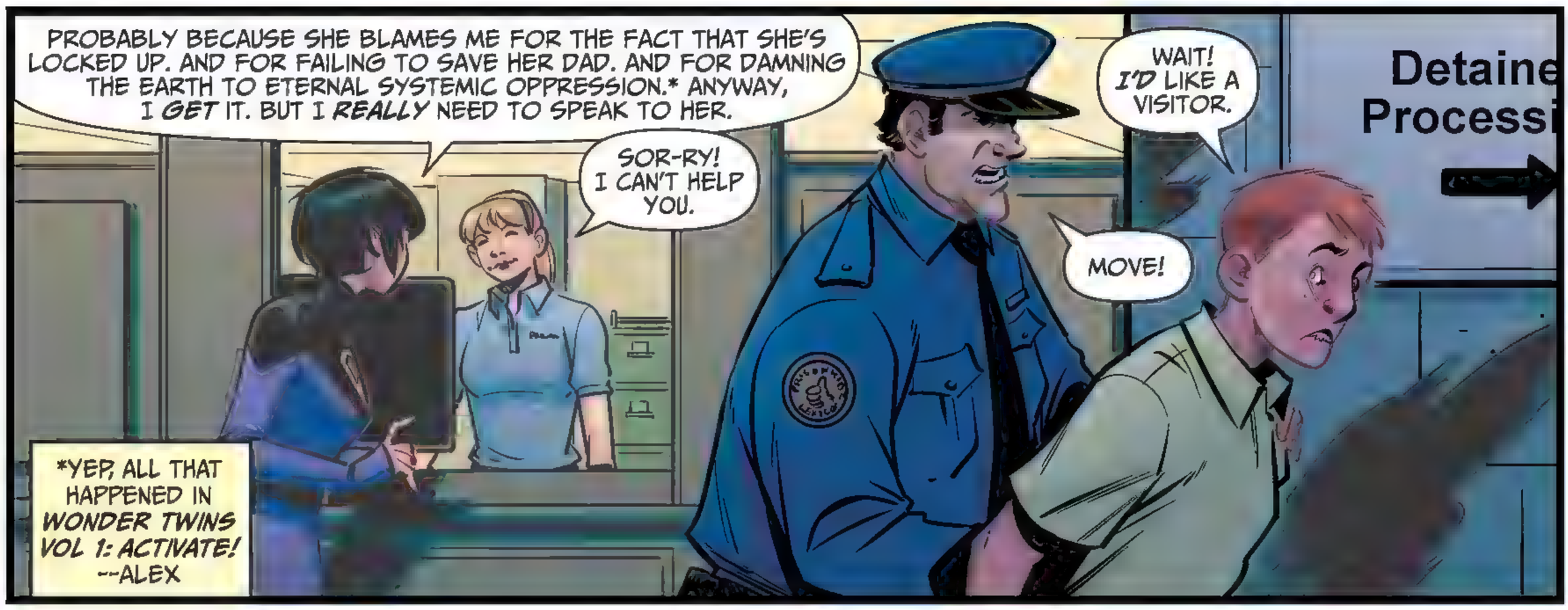
BUT NOTHING IS *PERMANENT*. YOU JUST NEED TO *TALK* TO HER. PEOPLE *GET OVER* OLD WOUNDS, DON'T THEY?
NO. THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE *WRONG*.
EVERYTHING WE DO, EVERY MISTAKE WE MAKE, GOES ON OUR *PERMANENT RECORD*. AND I WOULD KNOW...

...I'M A *PRINCIPAL*.

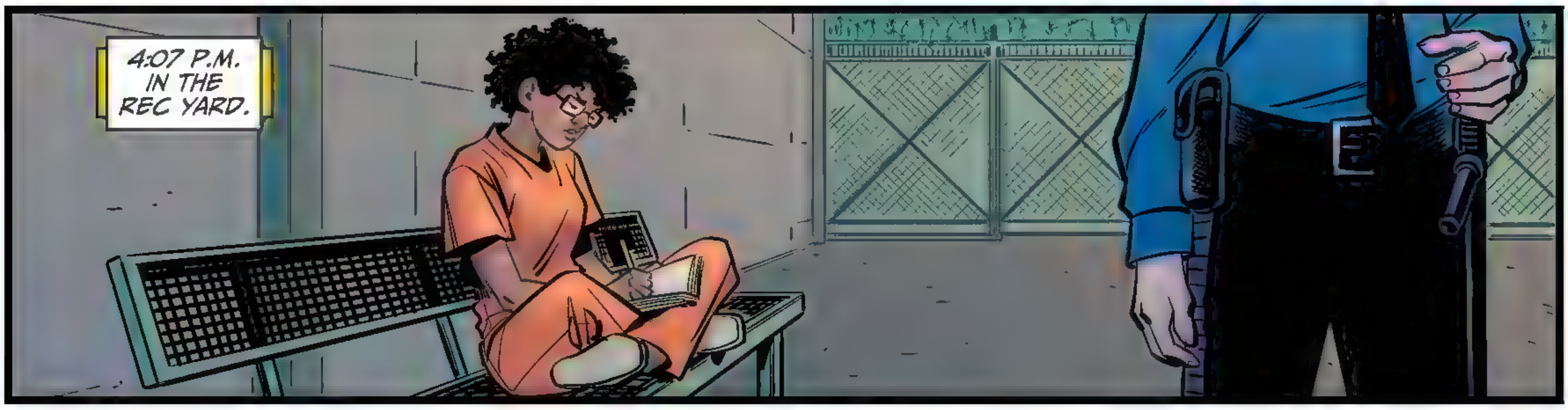
THAT DAY, AFTER SCHOOL.
WELCOME TO PRISON KIDZ! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
Prison Kidz
(a subsidiary of Lexicon)
Juvenile Detention Center

I'M HERE TO VISIT ONE OF YOUR CHILD DETAINEES.
PRISONER'S NAME?
POLLY MATH.
AND YOU ARE?
JAYNA.

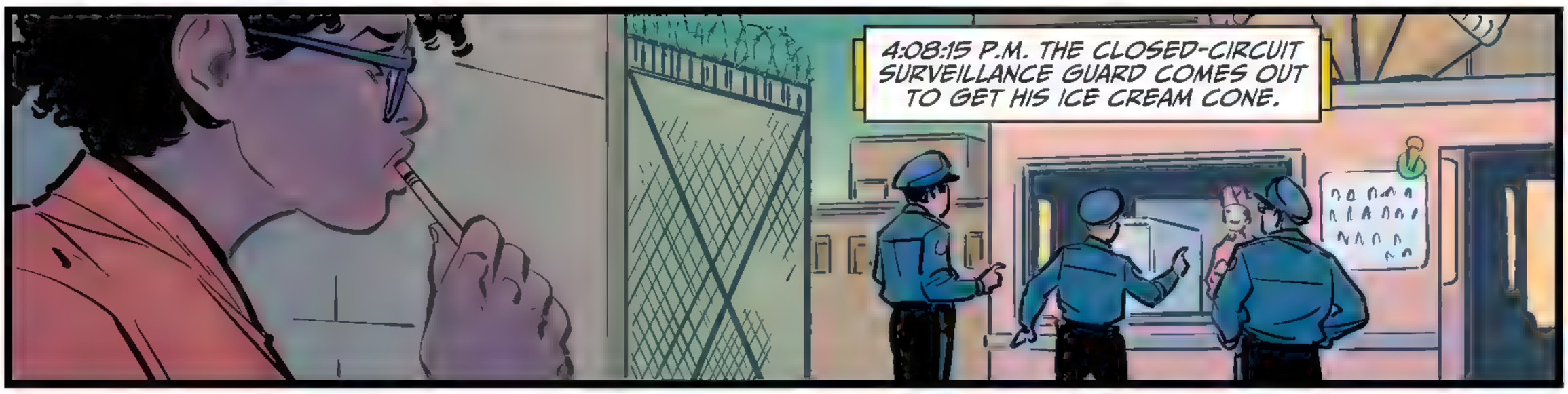

OH.
I'M AFRAID YOU ARE NOT ON THE LIST OF APPROVED VISITORS.
Detainee:
POLLY MATH
Approved visitors:
anyone except Jayna.

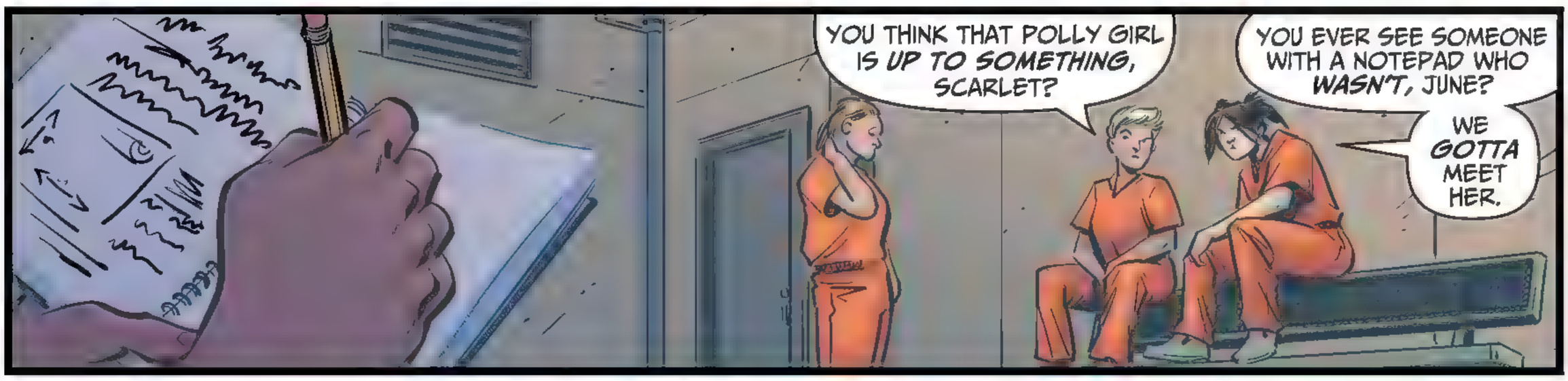

PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE BLAMES ME FOR THE FACT THAT SHE'S LOCKED UP. AND FOR FAILING TO SAVE HER DAD. AND FOR DAMNING THE EARTH TO ETERNAL SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION.* ANYWAY, I GET IT. BUT I REALLY NEED TO SPEAK TO HER.
SOR-RY! I CAN'T HELP YOU.
WAIT! I'D LIKE A VISITOR.
MOVE!
Detaine
Processi
*YEP, ALL THAT HAPPENED IN WONDER TWINS VOL 1: ACTIVATE! --ALEX

NO TRESSPASSING
POLLY... WHAT HAVE I DONE?

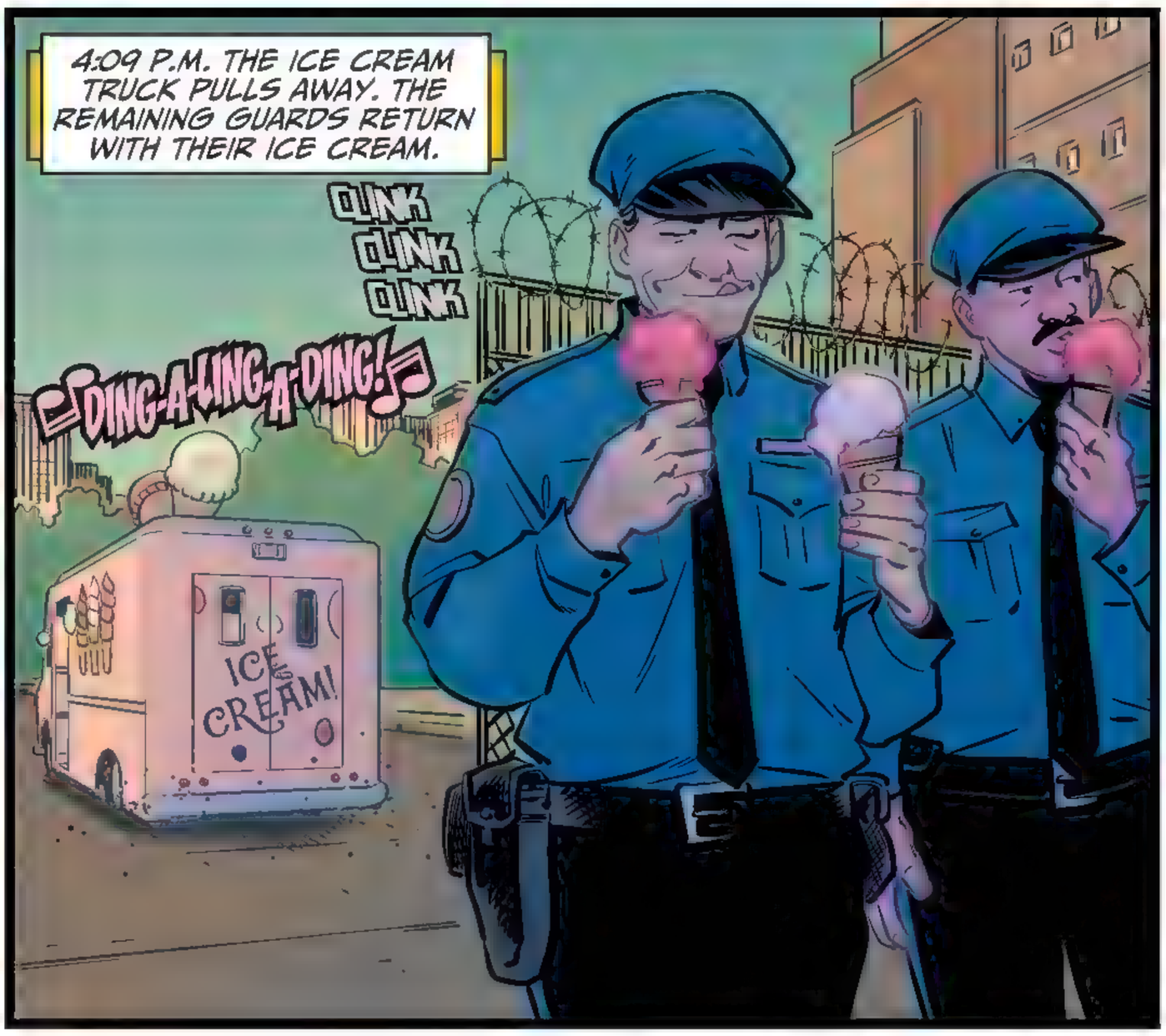

4:07 P.M. IN THE REC YARD.

DING-A-LING-A-DING!
ICE CREAM!
ICE CREAM!
4:08 P.M. AN ICE CREAM TRUCK PULLS UP.


4:08:15 P.M. THE CLOSED-CIRCUIT SURVEILLANCE GUARD COMES OUT TO GET HIS ICE CREAM CONE.

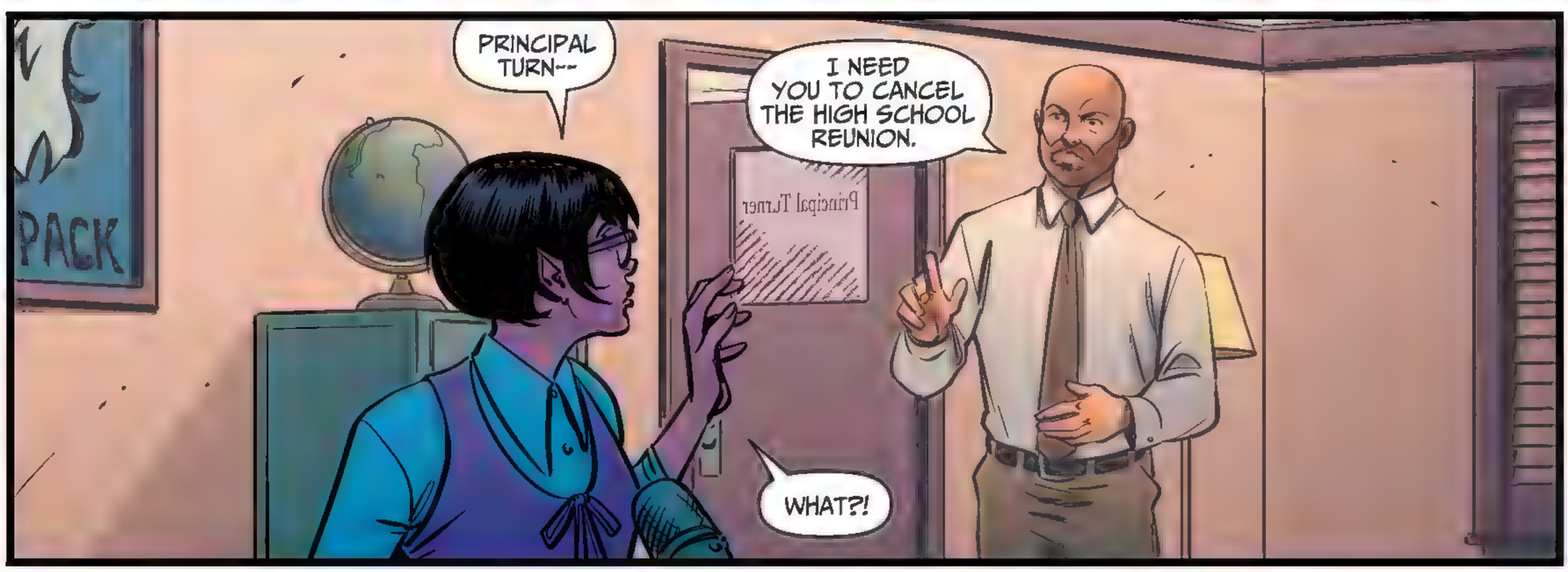

YOU THINK THAT POLLY GIRL IS UP TO SOMETHING, SCARLET?
YOU EVER SEE SOMEONE WITH A NOTEPAD WHO WASN'T, JUNE?
WE GOTTA MEET HER.

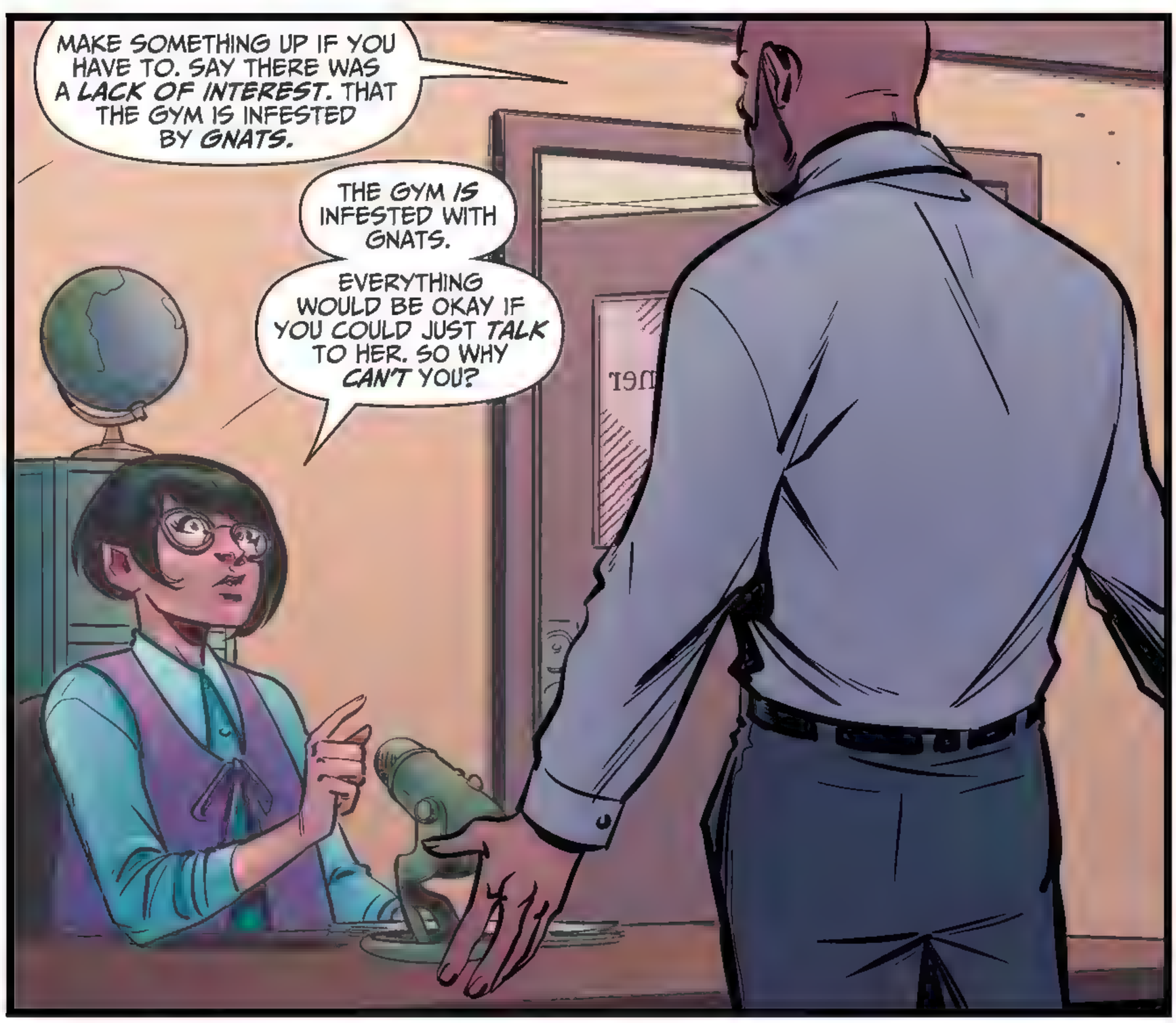
4:08:32 P.M. THE YARD CAPTAIN, PRESUMABLY ON A DIET, RELIEVES THE TOWER GUARDS SO THEY CAN GET ICE CREAM.
ICE CREAM!


4:09 P.M. THE ICE CREAM TRUCK PULLS AWAY. THE REMAINING GUARDS RETURN WITH THEIR ICE CREAM.
DINK DINK DINK
DING-A-LING-A-DING!
ICE CREAM!

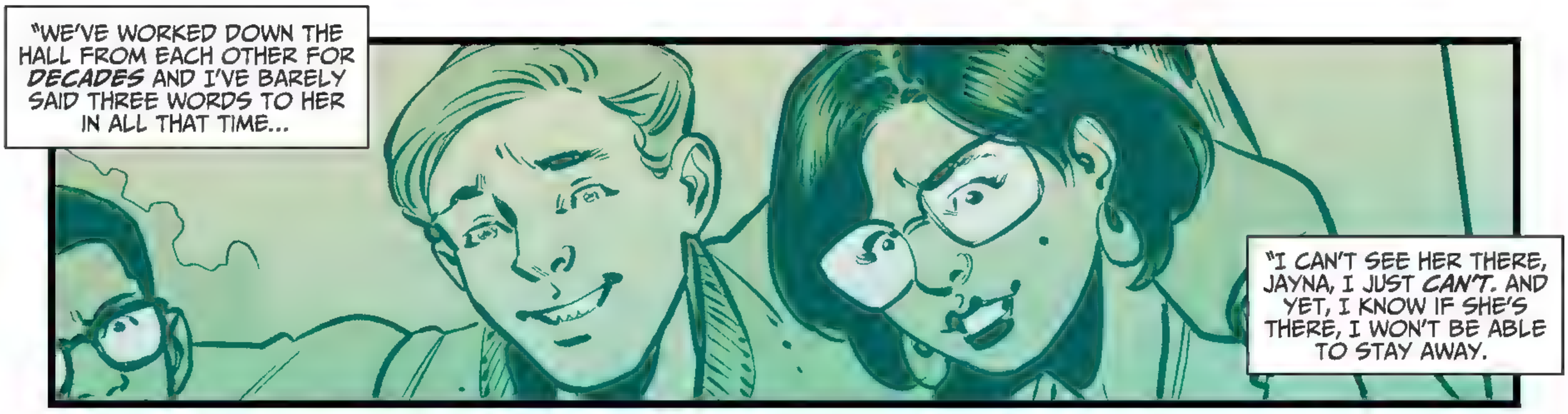
THE NEXT MORNING.
"SO WHILE IT IS A LARGE SNAKE, IT'S TOTALLY NON-POISONOUS.

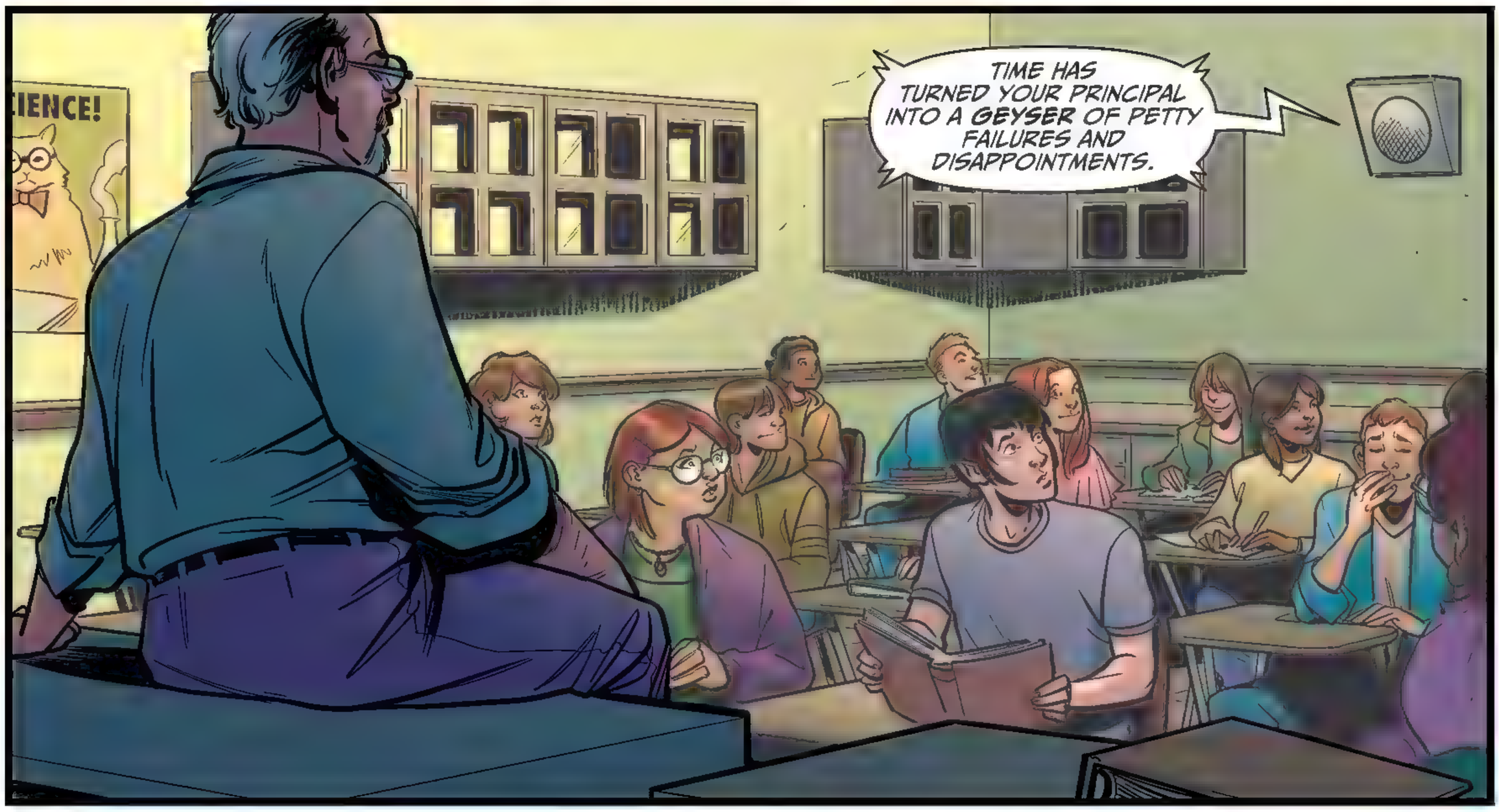
IF YOU SEE IT, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCIENCE LAB IMMEDIATELY...
JAYNA, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?


PACK
PRINCIPAL TURN--
I NEED YOU TO CANCEL THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION.
WHAT?!


MAKE SOMETHING UP IF YOU HAVE TO. SAY THERE WAS A LACK OF INTEREST. THAT THE GYM IS INFESTED BY GNATS.
THE GYM IS INFESTED WITH GNATS.
EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY IF YOU COULD JUST TALK TO HER. SO WHY CAN'T YOU?

BECAUSE I'M A COWARD, ALL RIGHT! IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR?!


"WE'VE WORKED DOWN THE HALL FROM EACH OTHER FOR DECADES AND I'VE BARELY SAID THREE WORDS TO HER IN ALL THAT TIME...
"I CAN'T SEE HER THERE, JAYNA, I JUST CAN'T. AND YET, I KNOW IF SHE'S THERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY AWAY.


TIME HAS TURNED YOUR PRINCIPAL INTO A GEYSER OF PETTY FAILURES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS.

I AM THE WORST KIND OF FRAUD, JAYNA.

I'M A MAN WHO CHEATED HIMSELF OUT OF LOVE.

LATER, AT THE REUNION COMMITTEE.

I CAN APPRECIATE PRINCIPAL TURNER'S EXISTENTIAL TERROR, BUT THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION MUST CONTINUE *AS PLANNED.*

I AGREE WITH FRED. IF HIGH SCHOOL HAS TAUGHT ME *ANYTHING,* IT'S THAT YOU CAN'T AVOID PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE THEY FILL YOU WITH DREAD.

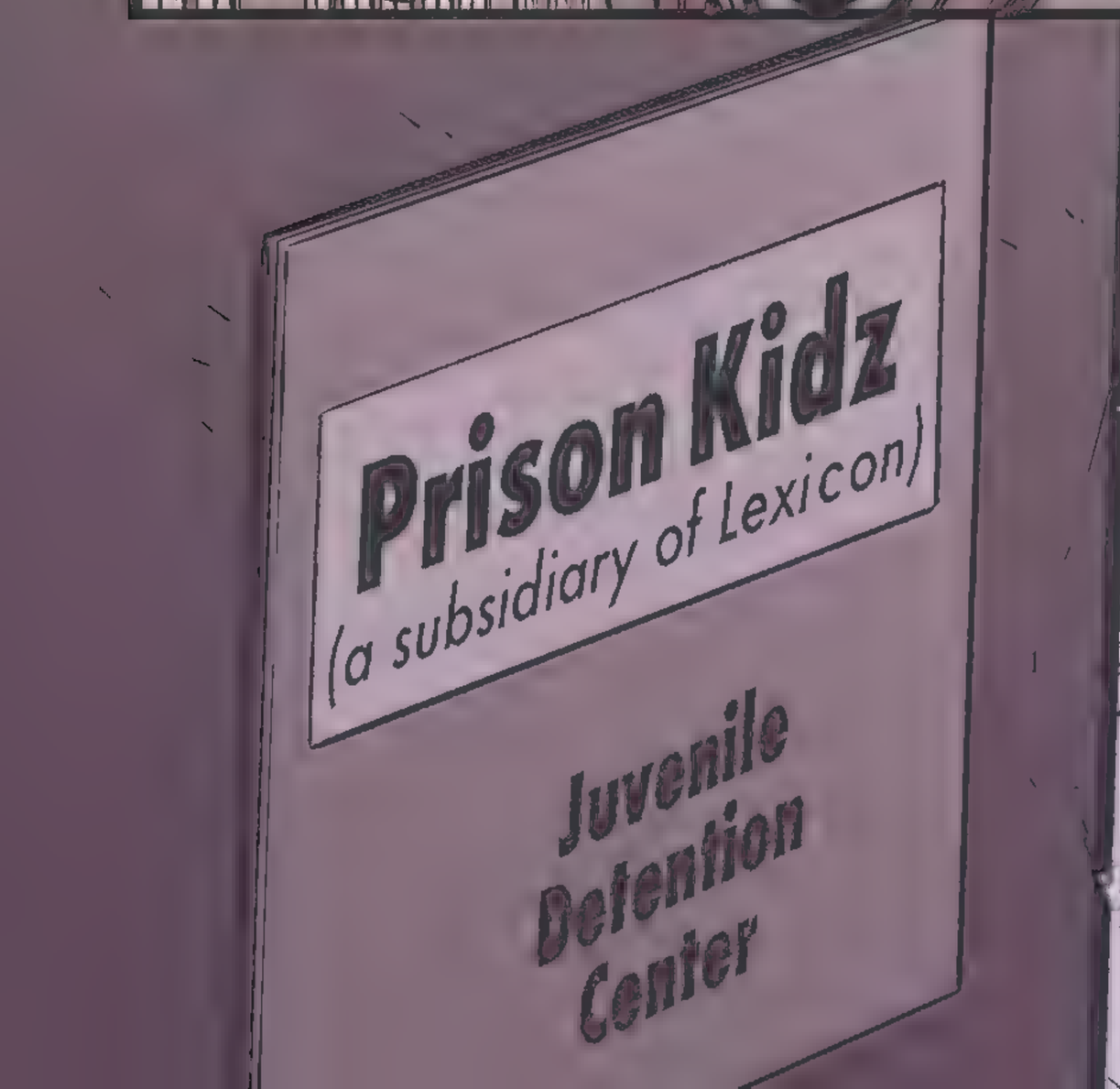
PLUS, WE'VE ALREADY ORDERED THE BUFFET.

I AGREE.

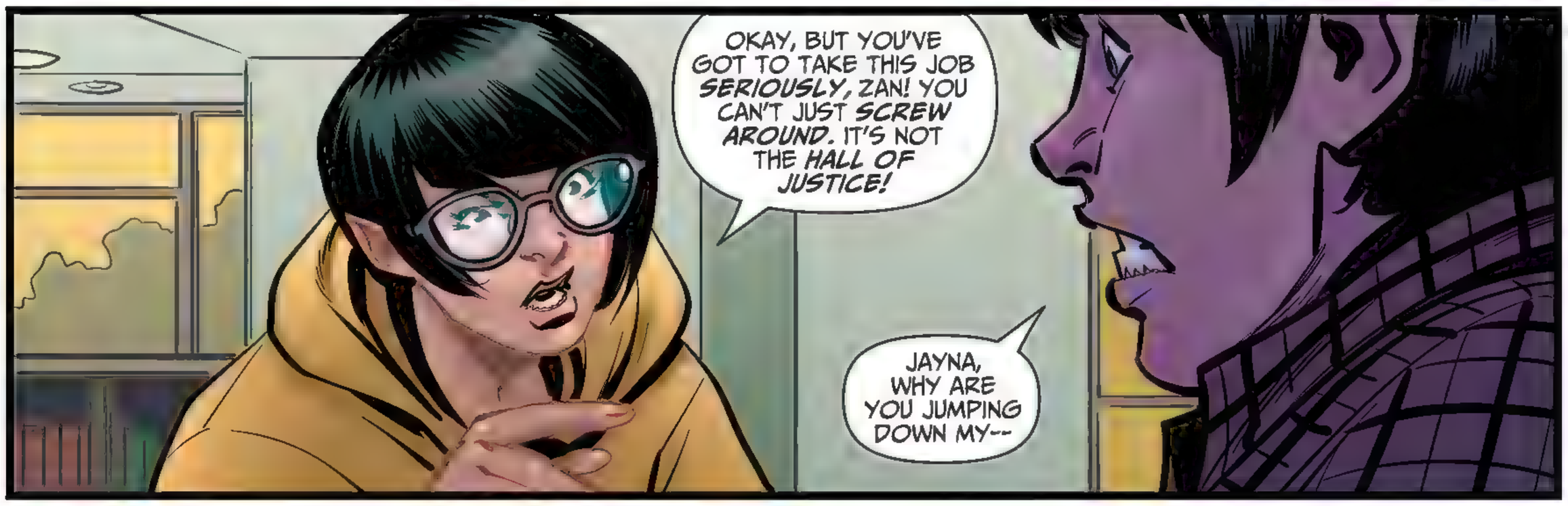
IN FACT, I'M MAKING THIS REUNION MY *PERSONAL MISSION.* MY WHITE WHALE.

UH, I DON'T THINK YOU READ THAT NOVEL TO THE *END...*

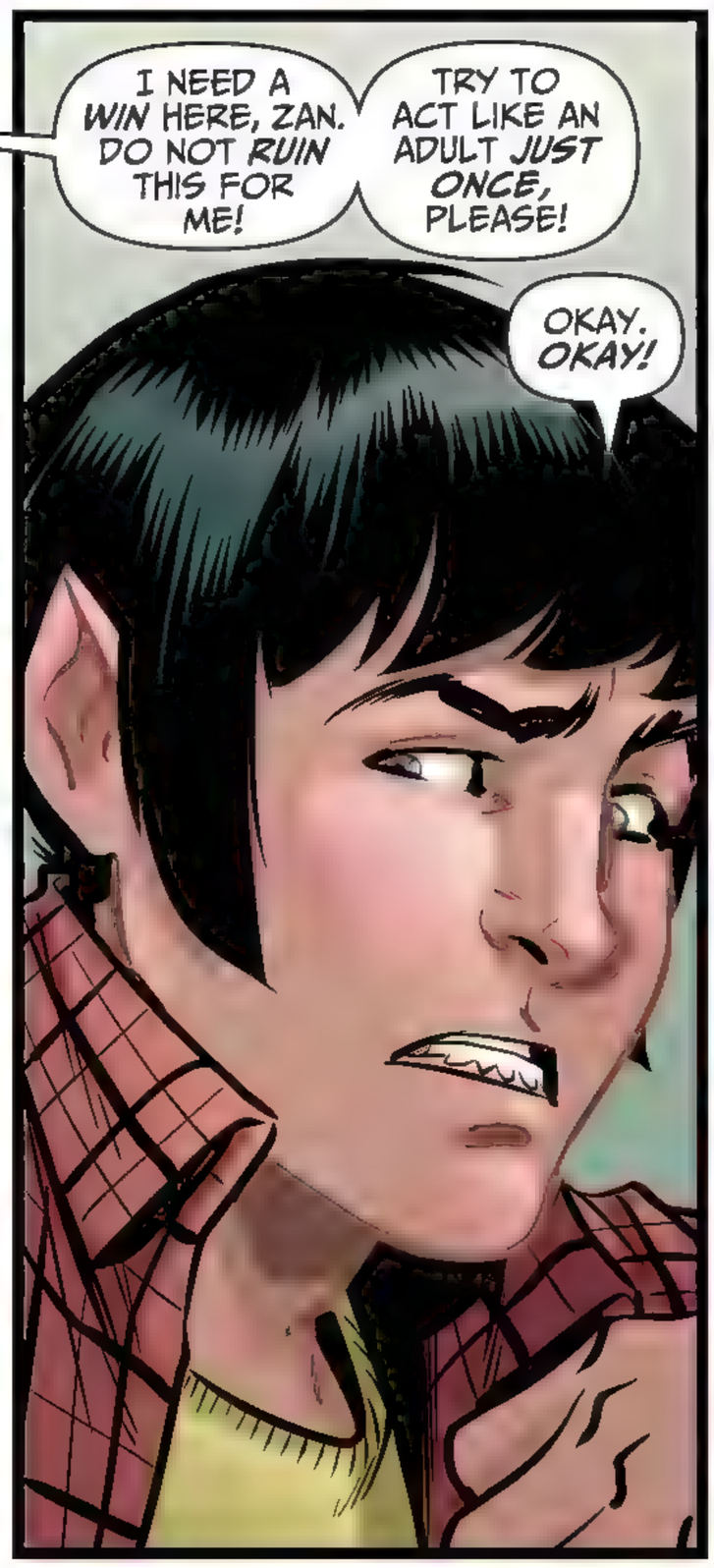
"I'M GOING TO *PROVE* TO HIM... TO THE *WORLD...*

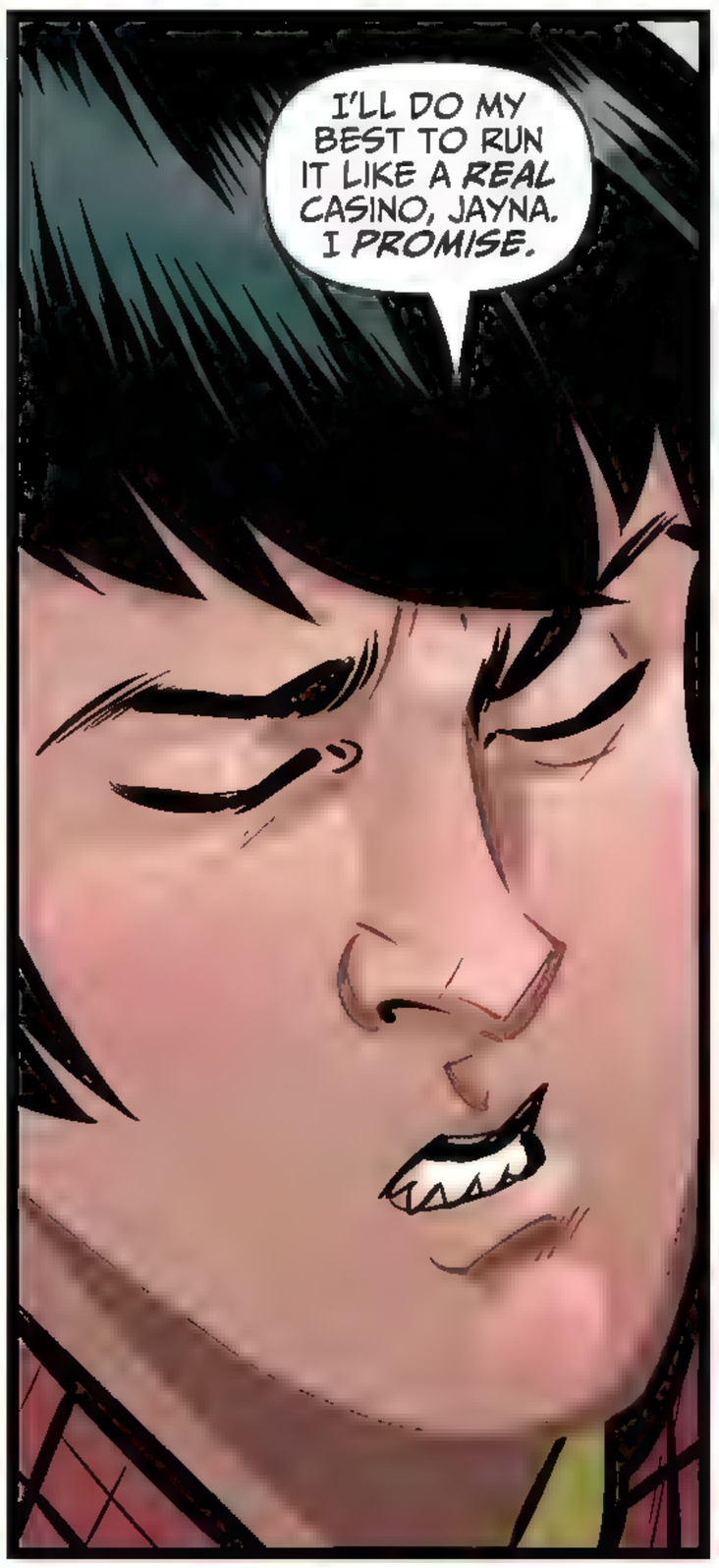


I'LL TAKE CARE OF TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. WHO WANTS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE *CASINO?*
I'VE GOT IT COVERED, SIS!

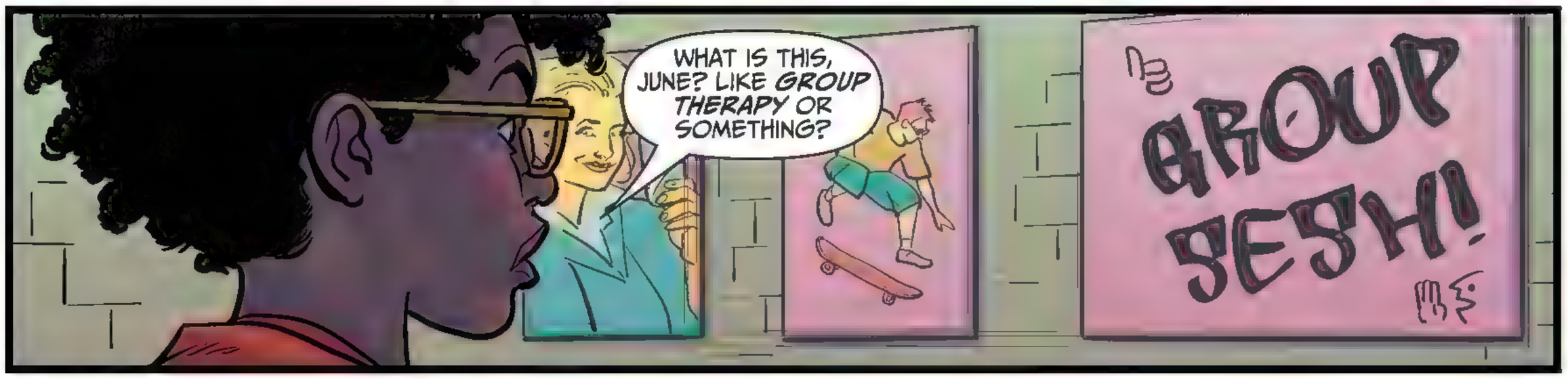

OKAY, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS JOB *SERIOUSLY,* ZAN! YOU CAN'T JUST *SCREW AROUND.* IT'S NOT THE *HALL OF JUSTICE!*
JAYNA, WHY ARE YOU JUMPING DOWN MY--

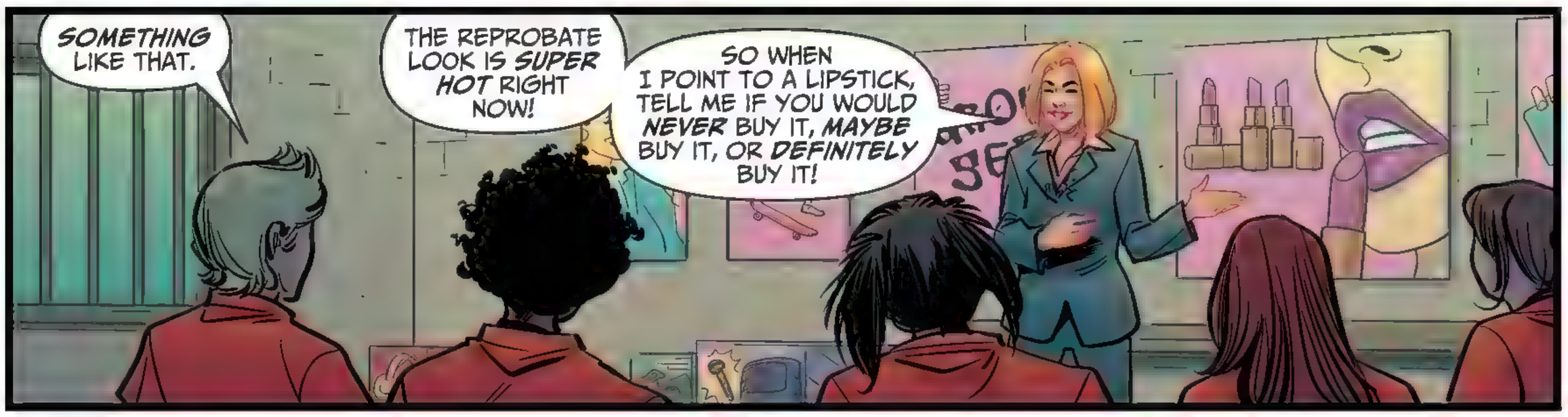
THE CASINO CAN *MAKE OR BREAK* A HIGH SCHOOL REUNION.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!


I NEED A *WIN* HERE, ZAN. DO NOT *RUIN* THIS FOR ME!
TRY TO ACT LIKE AN ADULT *JUST ONCE,* PLEASE!
OKAY. *OKAY!*

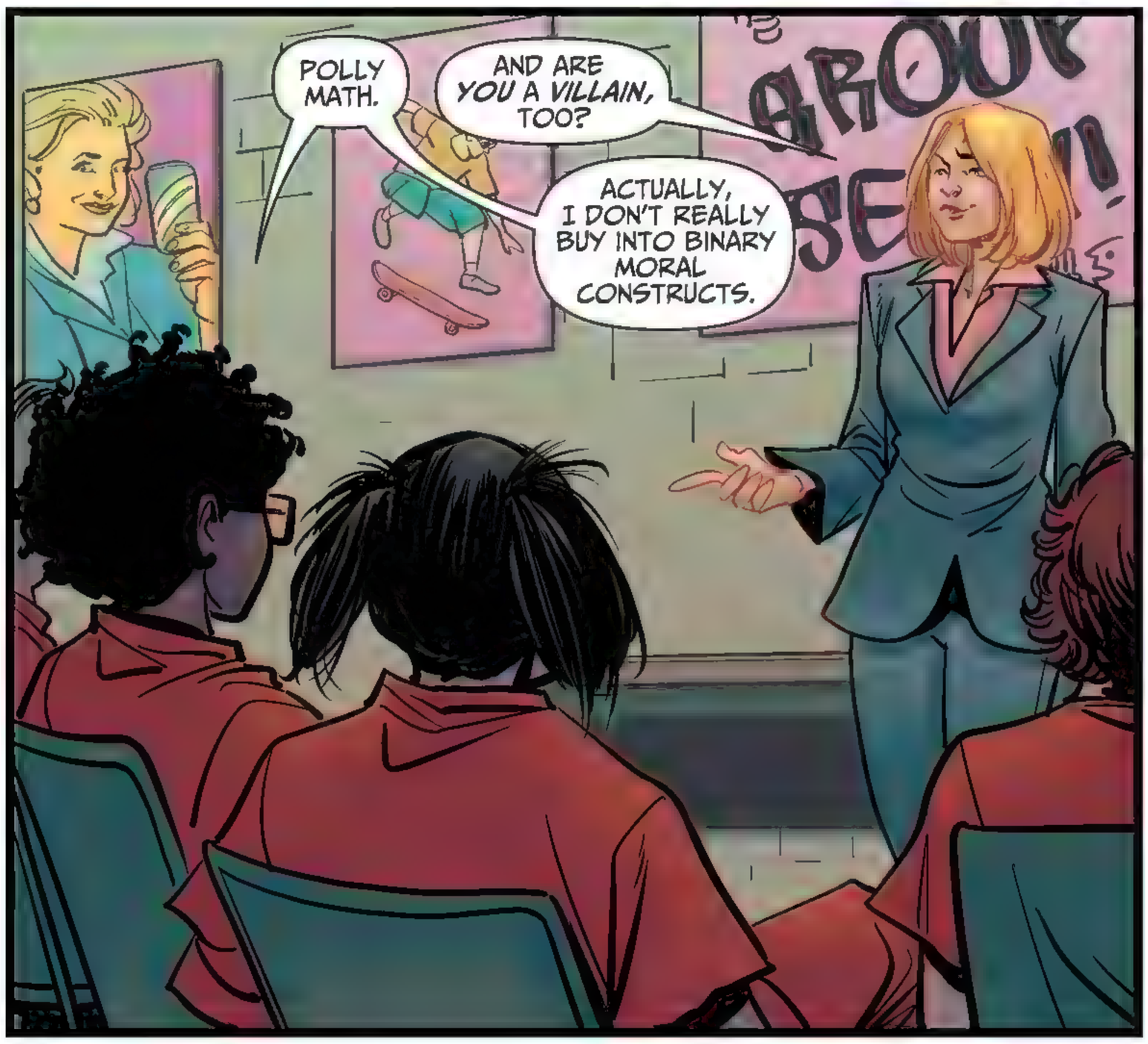

I'LL DO MY BEST TO RUN IT LIKE A *REAL* CASINO, JAYNA. I *PROMISE.*

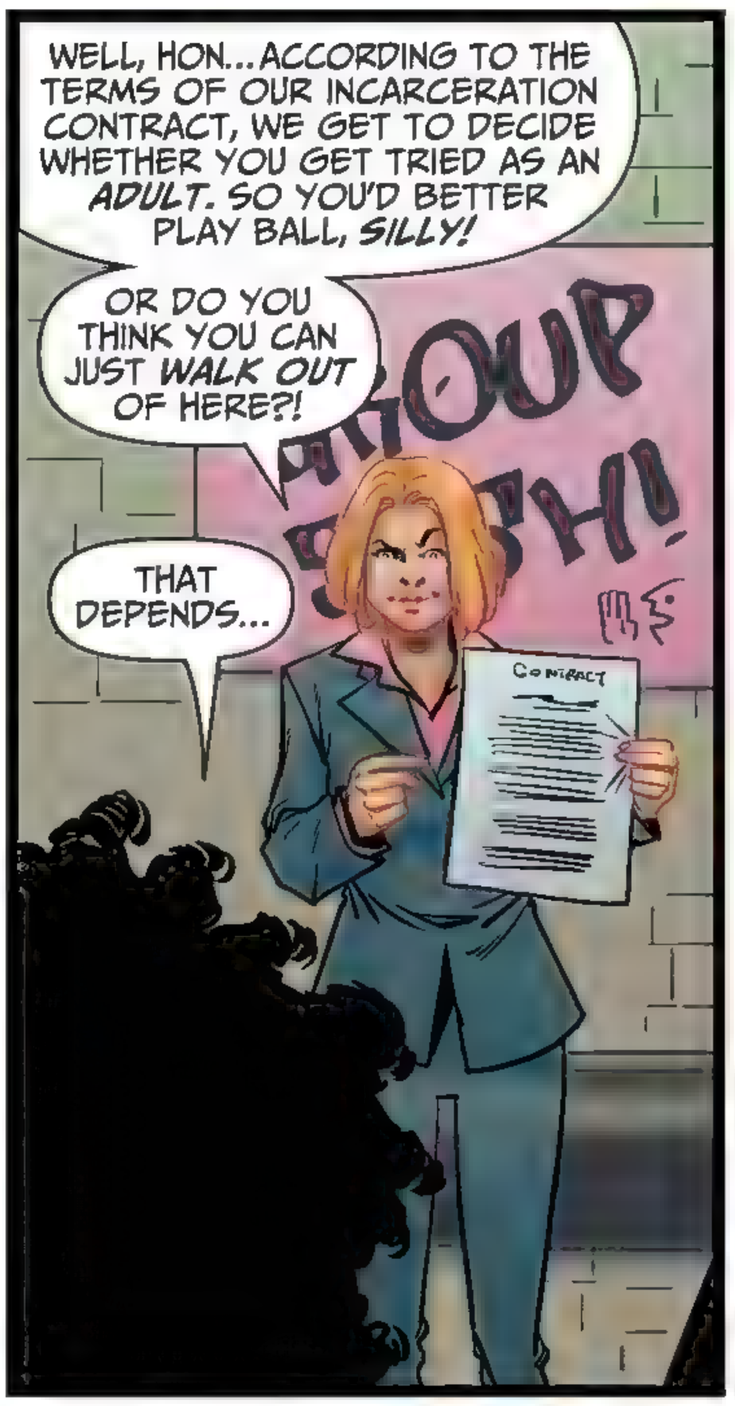
Prison Kidz
(a subsidiary of Lexicon)
"THEY MAKE US DO THIS ONCE A WEEK."


WHAT IS THIS, JUNE? LIKE GROUP THERAPY OR SOMETHING?
GROUP SESH!

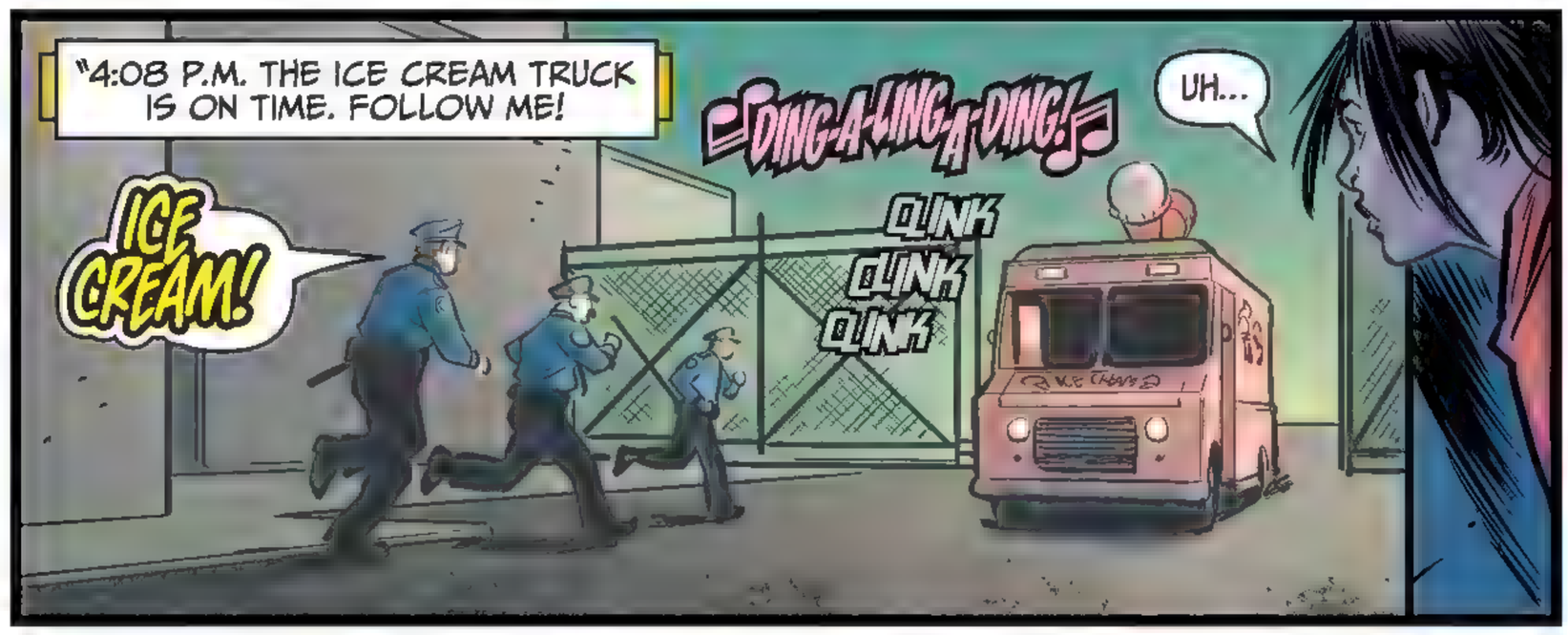

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THE REPROBATE LOOK IS SUPER HOT RIGHT NOW!
SO WHEN I POINT TO A LIPSTICK, TELL ME IF YOU WOULD NEVER BUY IT, MAYBE BUY IT, OR DEFINITELY BUY IT!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
OH, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE SOMEONE NEW AT GROUP SESH! WHAT'S YOUR NAME, DOLL?

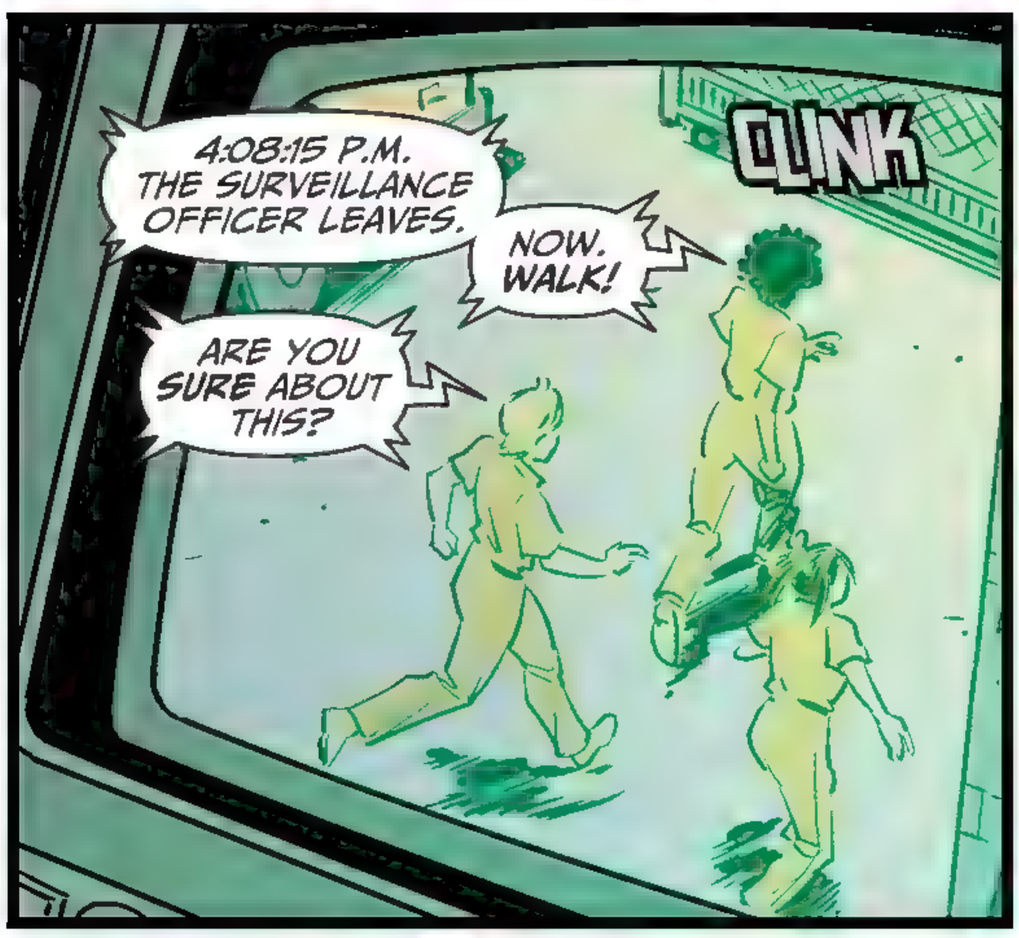

POLLY MATH.
AND ARE YOU A VILLAIN, TOO?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY BUY INTO BINARY MORAL CONSTRUCTS.

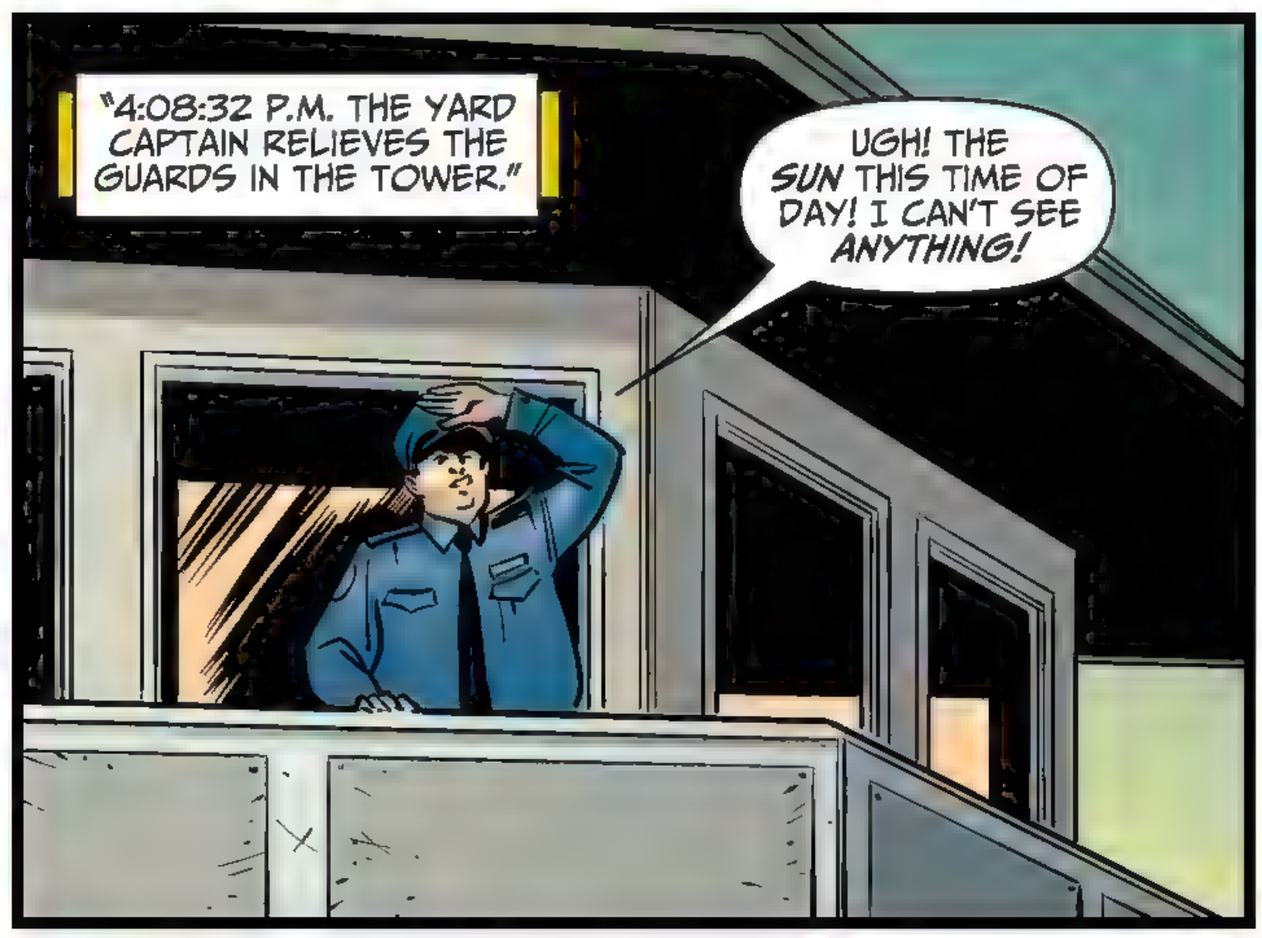

WELL, HON...ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF OUR INCARCERATION CONTRACT, WE GET TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU GET TRIED AS AN ADULT. SO YOU'D BETTER PLAY BALL, SILLY!
OR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALK OUT OF HERE?!
THAT DEPENDS...
CONTRACT

"WHAT TIME IS IT?"
4:07 P.M.
UH, POLLY? WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE DOING OUT HERE?
YOU WANT OUT?
WELL, YEAH. BUT--


"4:08 P.M. THE ICE CREAM TRUCK IS ON TIME. FOLLOW ME!
DING-A-LING-A-DING!
UH...
ICE CREAM!
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK

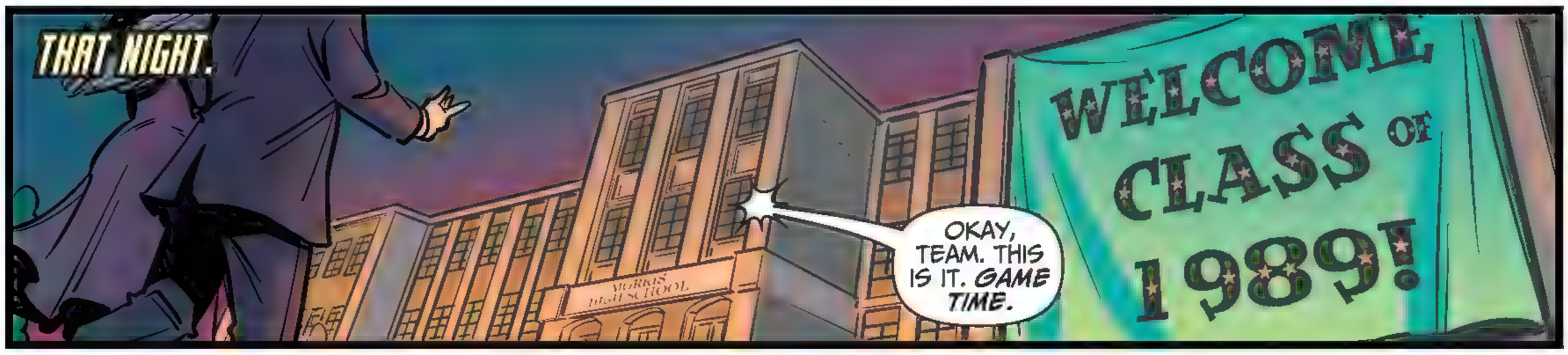
"WAIT FIVE SECONDS.
THANKS, ROY! YOU WANT ANYTHING?
NAH. I'M ON A DIET.

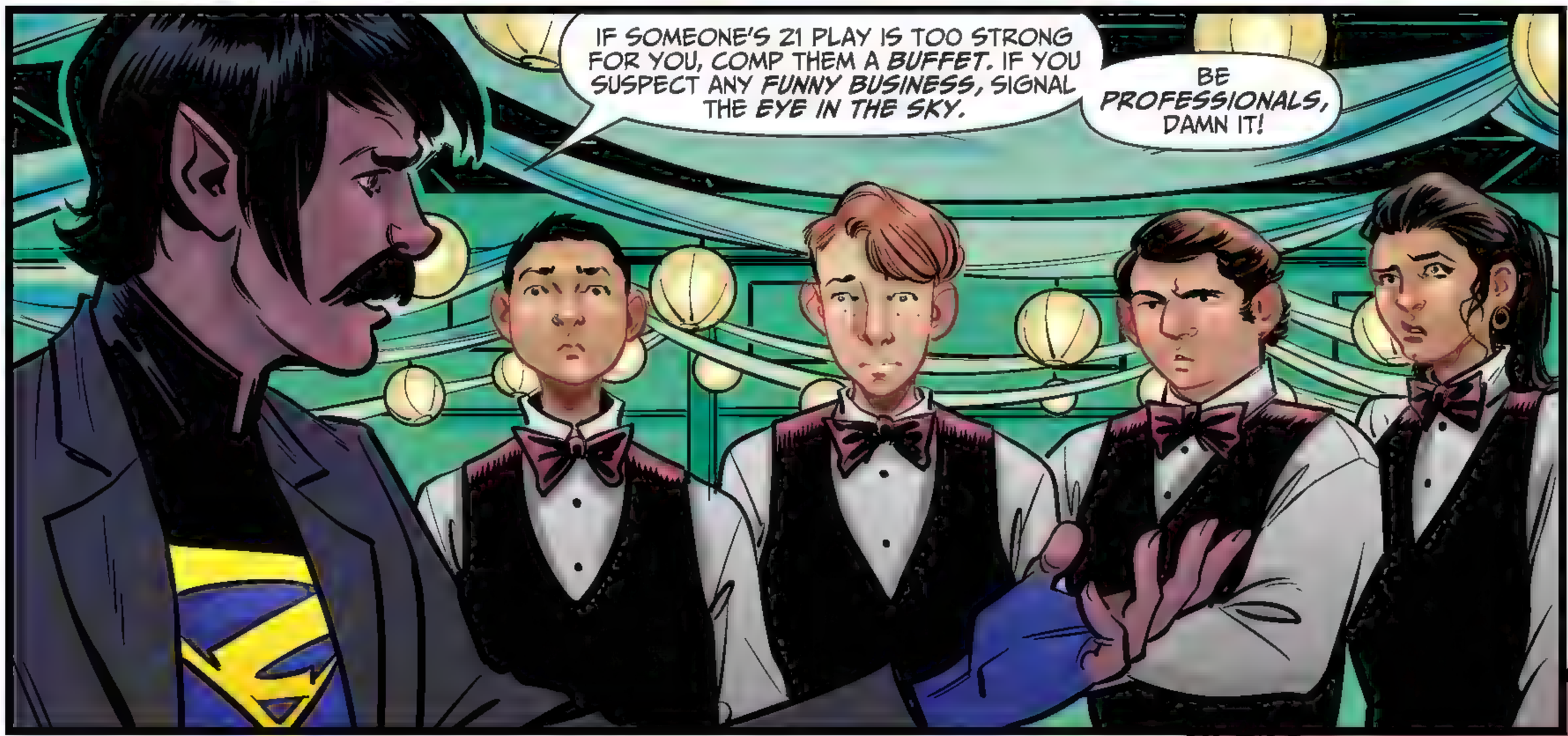

4:08:15 P.M. THE SURVEILLANCE OFFICER LEAVES.
CLINK
NOW. WALK!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

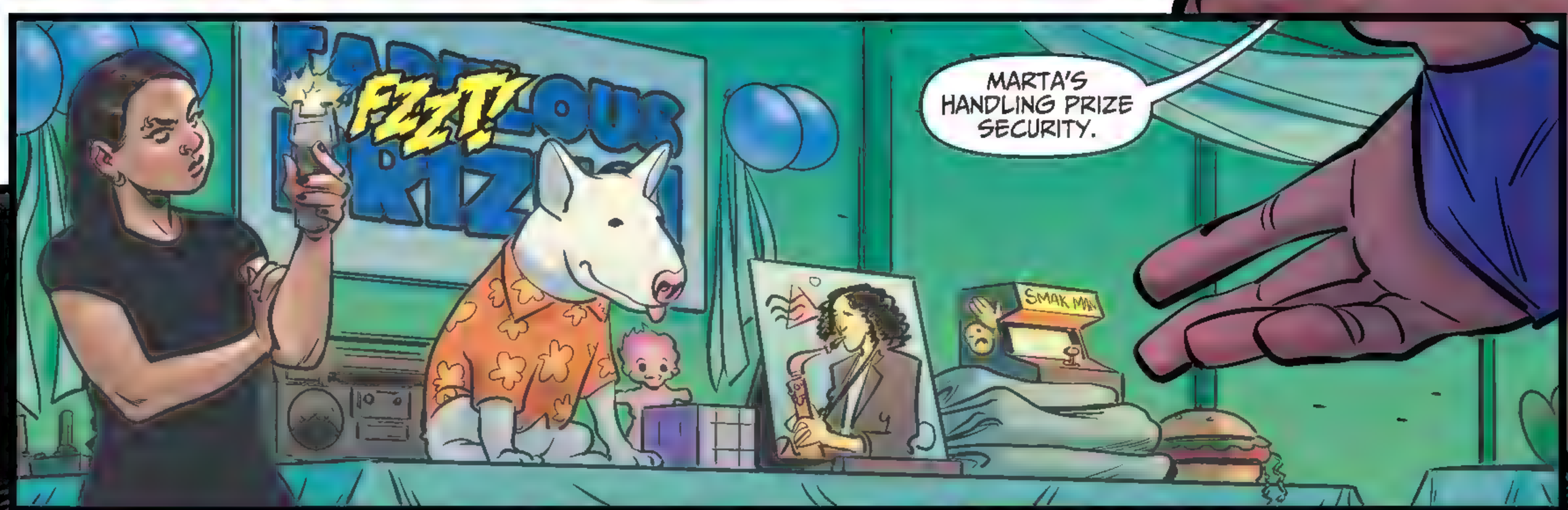

"4:08:32 P.M. THE YARD CAPTAIN RELIEVES THE GUARDS IN THE TOWER."
UGH! THE SUN THIS TIME OF DAY! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

HOLY SNAP! IS THIS HAPPENING?
KEEP WALKING! GO AROUND THE BACK OF THE TRUCK.
ICE CREAM
ICE CREAM

4:09 P.M. ICE CREAM TRUCK GETAWAY COMPLETE.
DING-A-LING-A-DING!
ICE CREAM


THAT NIGHT.
WELCOME CLASS OF 1989!
OKAY, TEAM. THIS IS IT. GAME TIME.


IF SOMEONE'S 21 PLAY IS TOO STRONG FOR YOU, COMP THEM A BUFFET. IF YOU SUSPECT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS, SIGNAL THE EYE IN THE SKY.
BE PROFESSIONALS, DAMN IT!


FZZT!
MARTA'S HANDLING PRIZE SECURITY.
SMAK MAN

ALWAYS WASH THE CARDS. AND REMEMBER, NO LESS THAN SIX DECKS IN A SHOE!
IF WE RUN OUR TABLES TIGHT AND KEEP OUR EYES ON THE SHORE THEN, BY GOD, WE JUST MIGHT SURVIVE THE NIGHT.

YOU'RE AT TABLE FIVE, PRINCIPAL TURNER. HERE ARE YOUR TWO COMPLIMENTARY DRINK TICKETS!
MAKE IT THREE.
SWEET LEPERS IN THE RAIN...WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
-GASP- STUDS McDOGGY!
I MUST HAVE THIS.
-SIGH- SHE'S NOT EVEN HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED.
PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.

I DON'T KNOW, JAYNA. I'VE GOT *A LOT* OF BOOKS TO SHELVE.
SHHH...

IT'S OKAY, MS. TEMPLE. I CAN SHELVE THEM. YOU SHOULD GO TO YOUR *CLASS REUNION.*
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...
BESIDES, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A TICKET.
IT'S OKAY! I GOT ONE FOR YOU.

IN FACT, HERE'S YOUR *TABLE ASSIGNMENT.*
Table 5

WELL PLAYED! YOUR THIRD BLACKJACK IN A *ROW!*
YES!

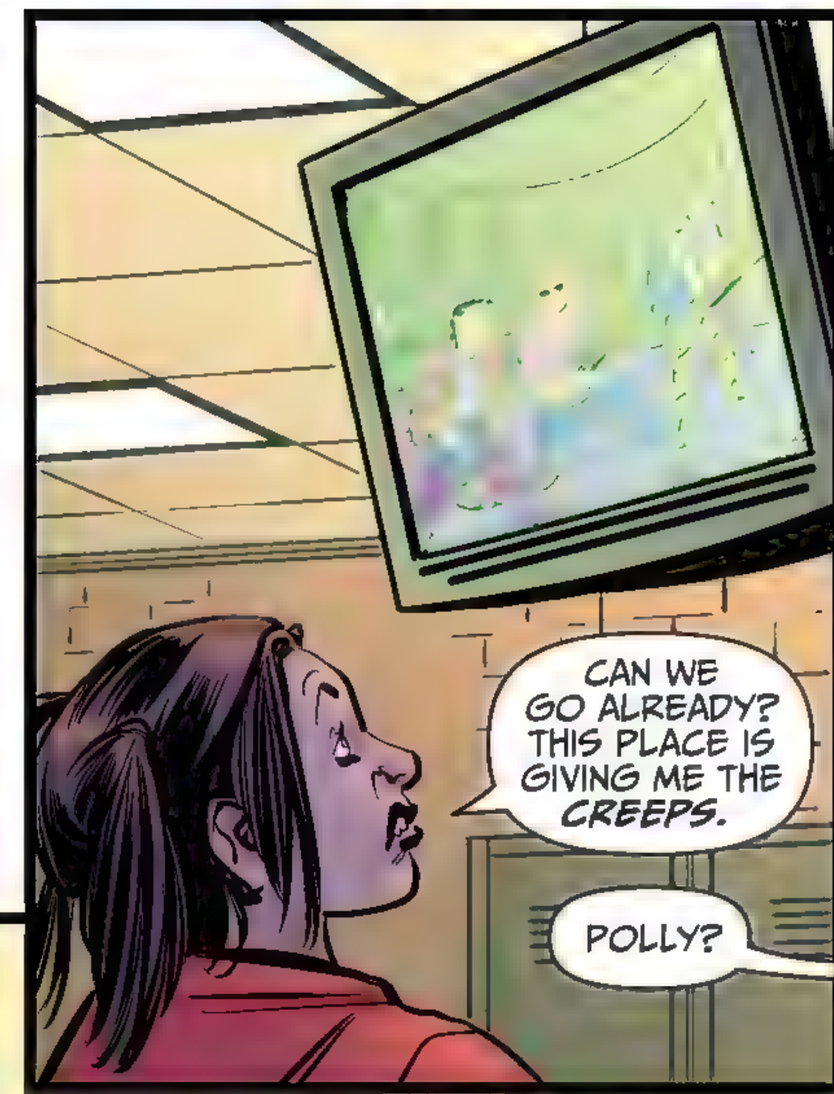
SOON YOU SHALL BE *MINE,* YOU SAUCY MINX!
PLEASE DON'T TALK TO THE PRIZES, SIR.
DO NOT TOUCH!

ANOTHER BLACKJACK!
HOO-AH!

SIR, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME WITH US...
WHAT THE--
DON'T MAKE A SCENE, SIR...

THE PIT BOSS WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU.

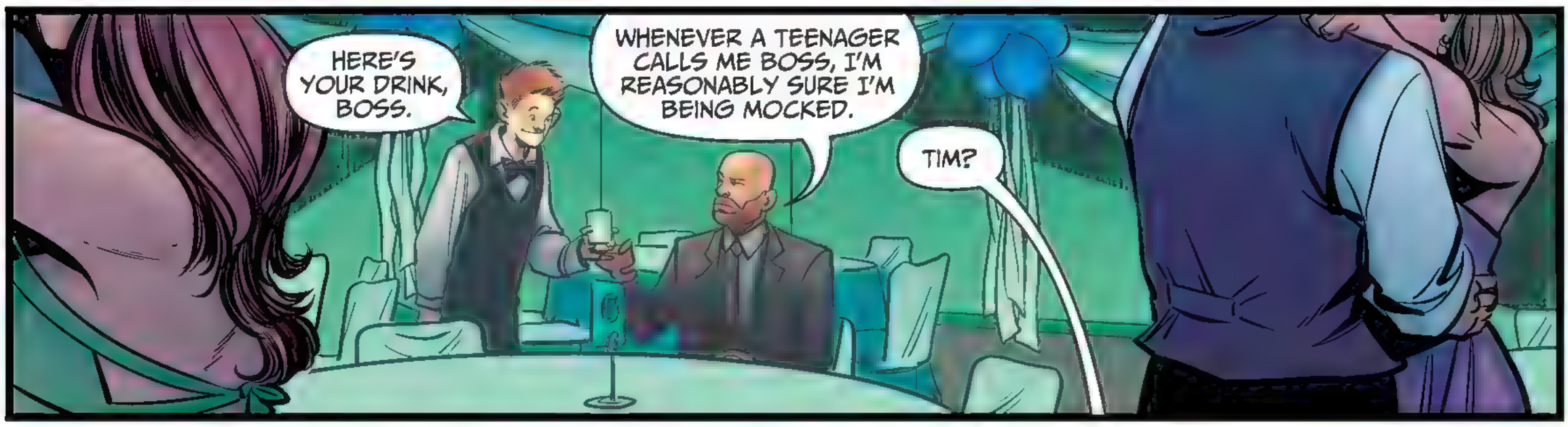
COME IN.
THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME.
->GULP<-
Grape Juice



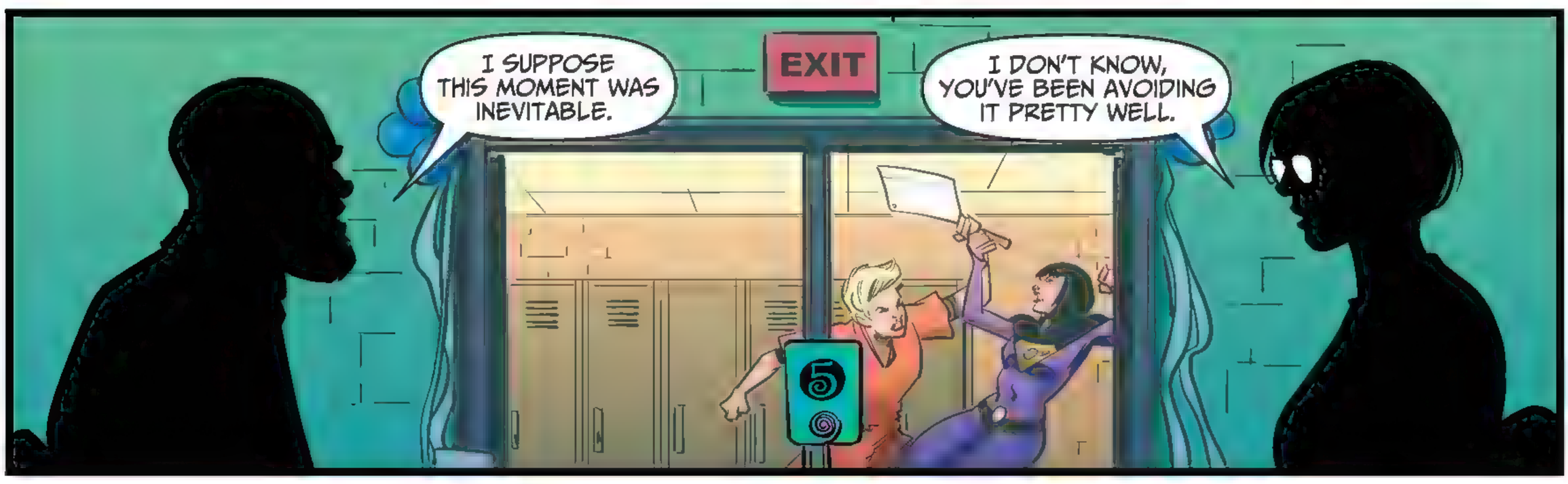
OUT OF THE WAY, JAYNA. *FOR ONCE,* JUST GET *THE HELL* OUT OF MY WAY.

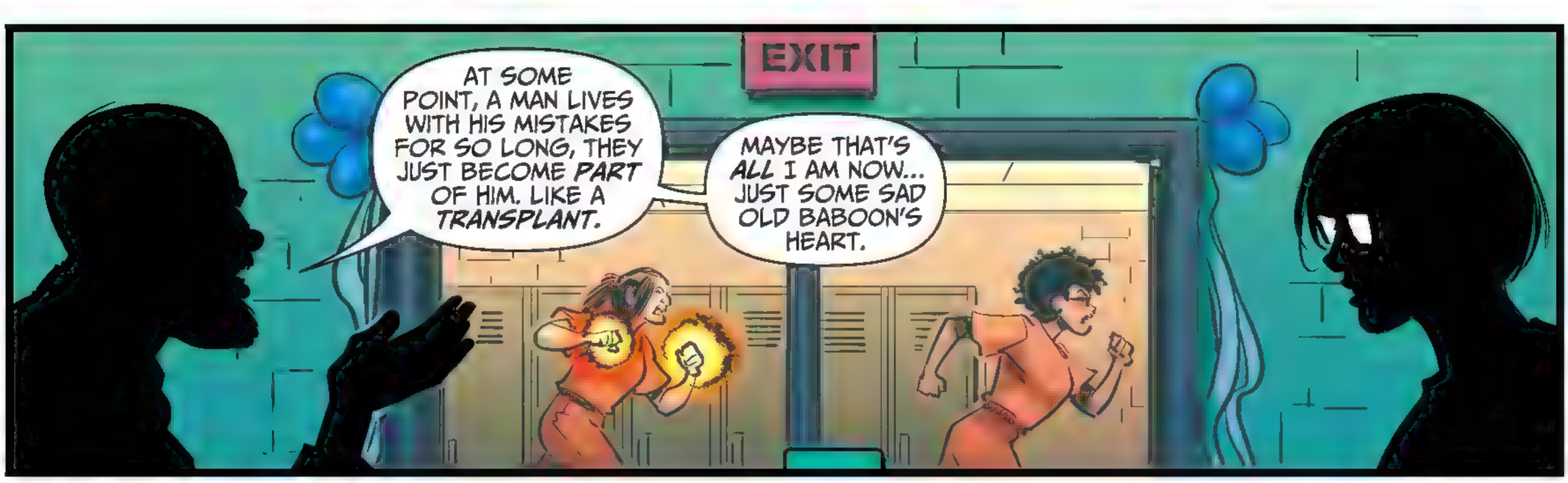
NOT UNTIL YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

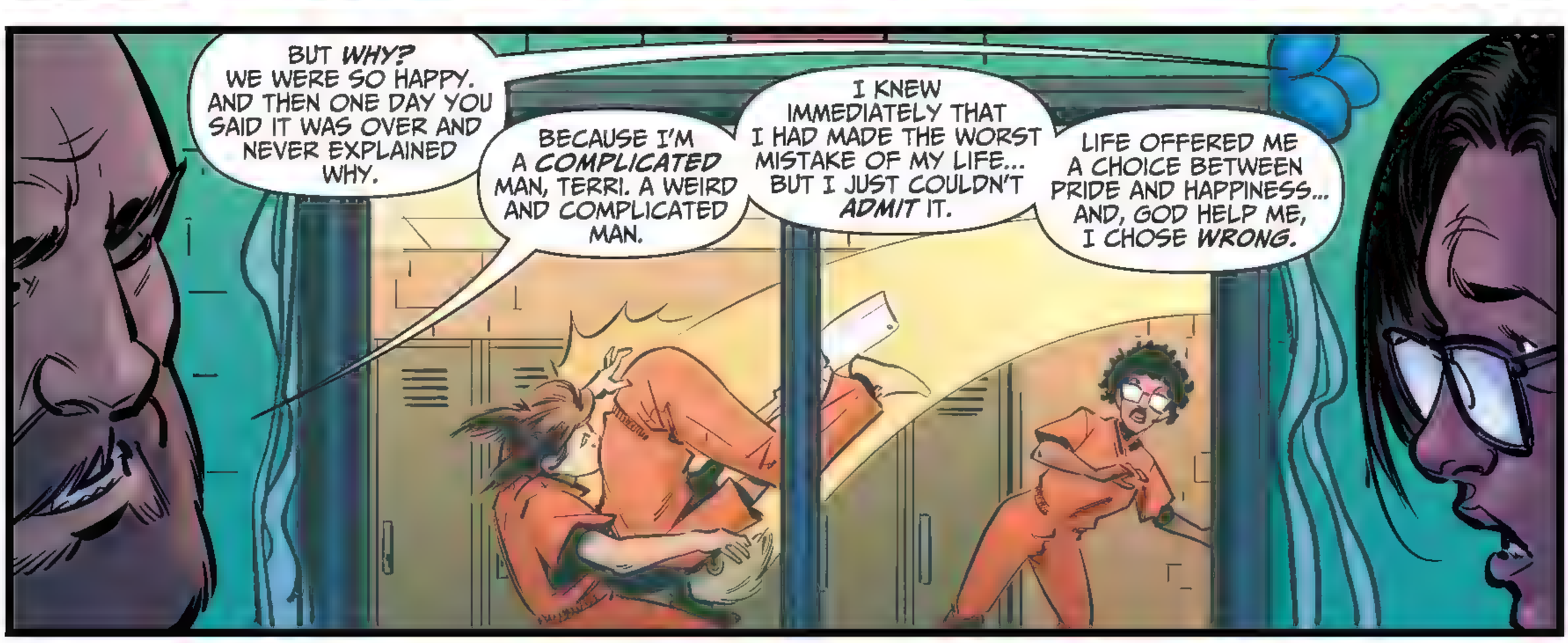
FZZZH


HERE'S YOUR DRINK, BOSS.
WHENEVER A TEENAGER CALLS ME BOSS, I'M REASONABLY SURE I'M BEING MOCKED.
TIM?

TERRI?
CAN I SIT DOWN?


I SUPPOSE THIS MOMENT WAS INEVITABLE.
EXIT
I DON'T KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING IT PRETTY WELL.


AT SOME POINT, A MAN LIVES WITH HIS MISTAKES FOR SO LONG, THEY JUST BECOME *PART* OF HIM. LIKE A *TRANSPLANT.*
EXIT
MAYBE THAT'S *ALL* I AM NOW... JUST SOME SAD OLD BABOON'S HEART.


BUT *WHY?* WE WERE SO HAPPY. AND THEN ONE DAY YOU SAID IT WAS OVER AND NEVER EXPLAINED WHY.
BECAUSE I'M A *COMPLICATED* MAN, TERRI. A WEIRD AND COMPLICATED MAN.
I KNEW IMMEDIATELY THAT I HAD MADE THE WORST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE... BUT I JUST COULDN'T *ADMIT* IT.
LIFE OFFERED ME A CHOICE BETWEEN PRIDE AND HAPPINESS... AND, GOD HELP ME, I CHOSE *WRONG.*

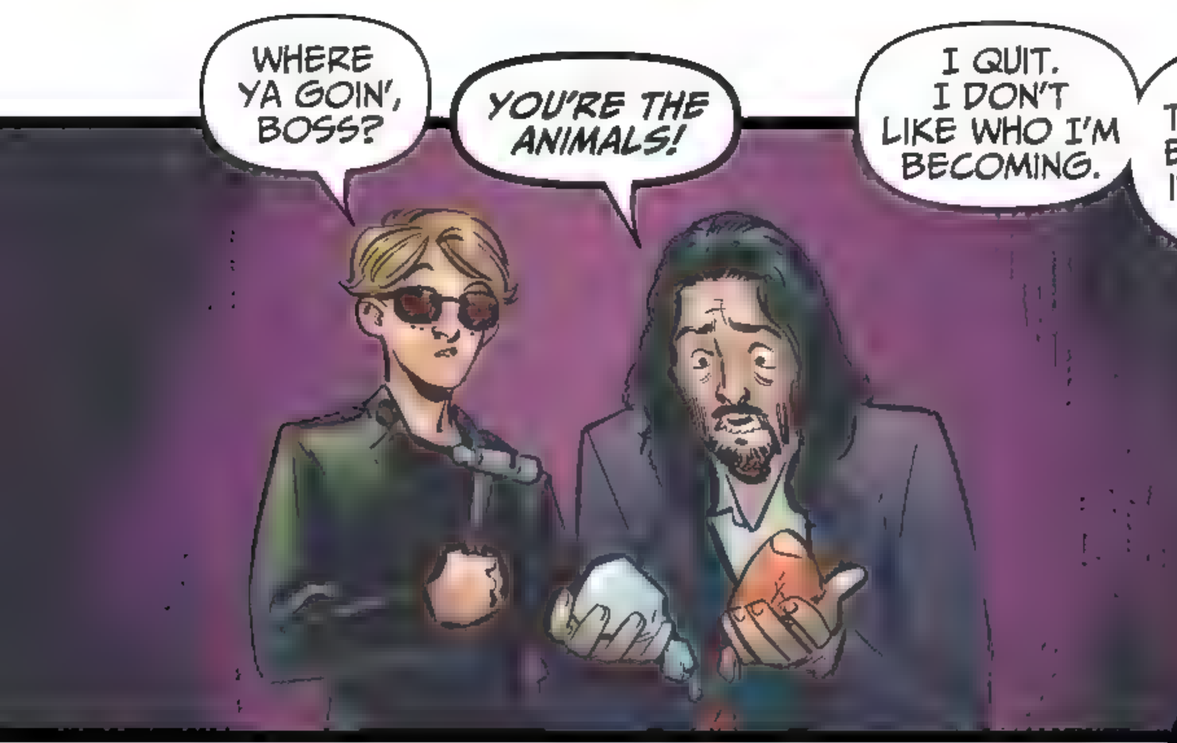
YOU HIT FIVE BLACKJACKS IN A ROW. SEEMS YOU'RE HAVING A LUCKY NIGHT.
LET ME GO! I WON THOSE HANDS FAIR AND SQUARE!
AND I MIGHT EVEN BELIEVE THAT...

"...IF THE EYE IN THE SKY HADN'T CAUGHT YOU SKIMMING CARDS!"
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--"

HELLO. WHAT ARE THESE?
LOOK... I MADE A MISTAKE.
DAMN RIGHT YOU DID.
BREAK HIS LEGS.

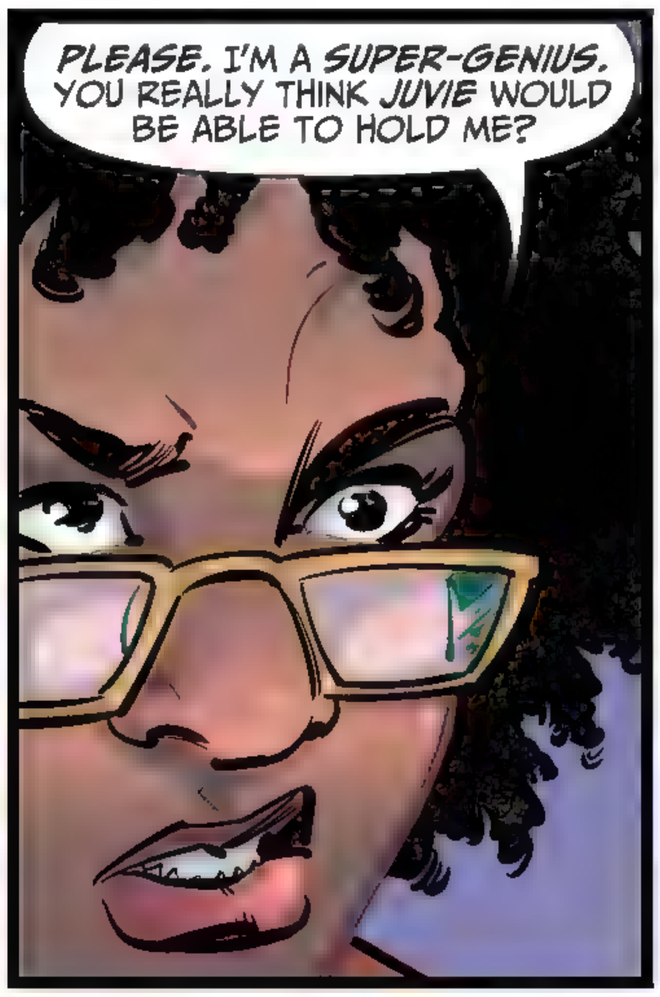
DON'T!
HE WAS THE ULTIMATE PARTY ANIMAL!
OH GOD, NO! STUDS!
ASH!!

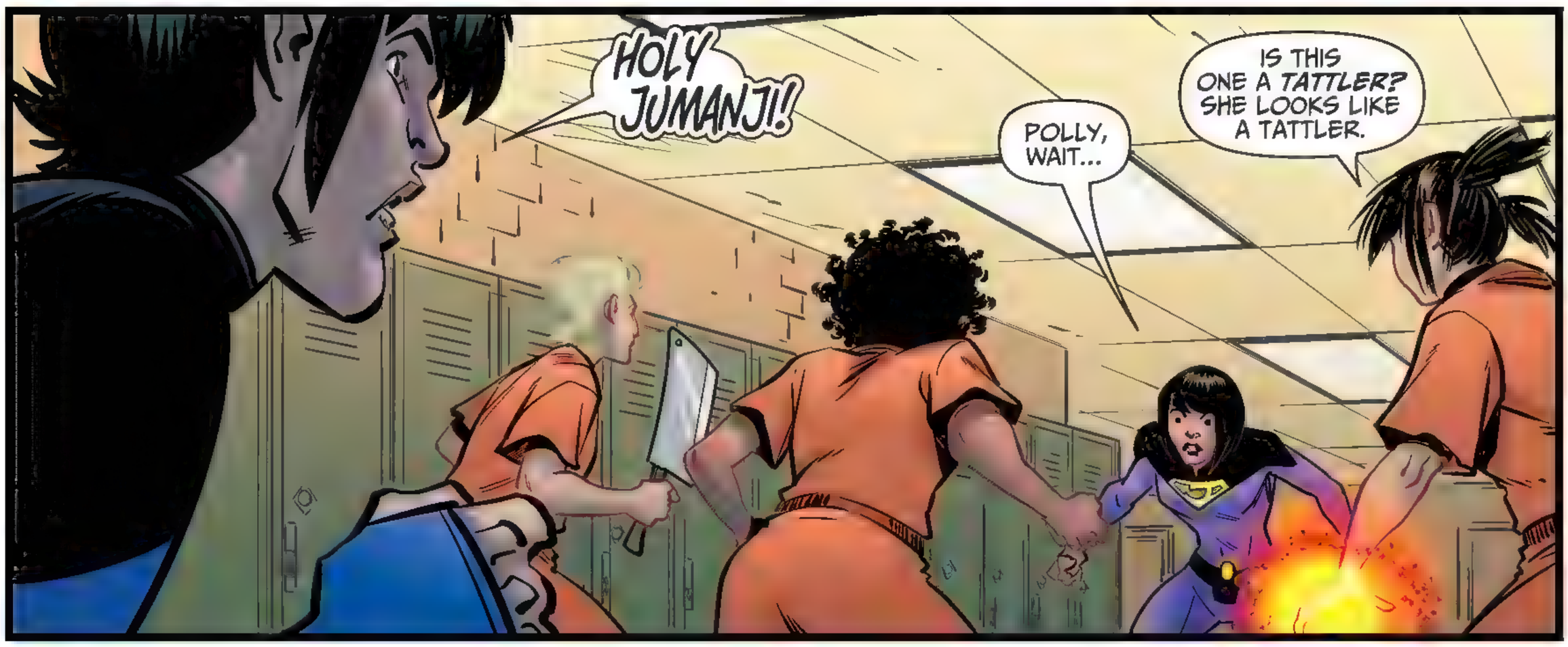
I WAS WRONG... HE'S NOT AN ANIMAL...


WHERE YA GOIN', BOSS?
YOU'RE THE ANIMALS!

I QUIT. I DON'T LIKE WHO I'M BECOMING.
STARE INTO THE ABYSS LONG ENOUGH, KID, AND IT STARES BACK AT YOU.
SSKRUTTCH

HOW DID YOU GET OUT?

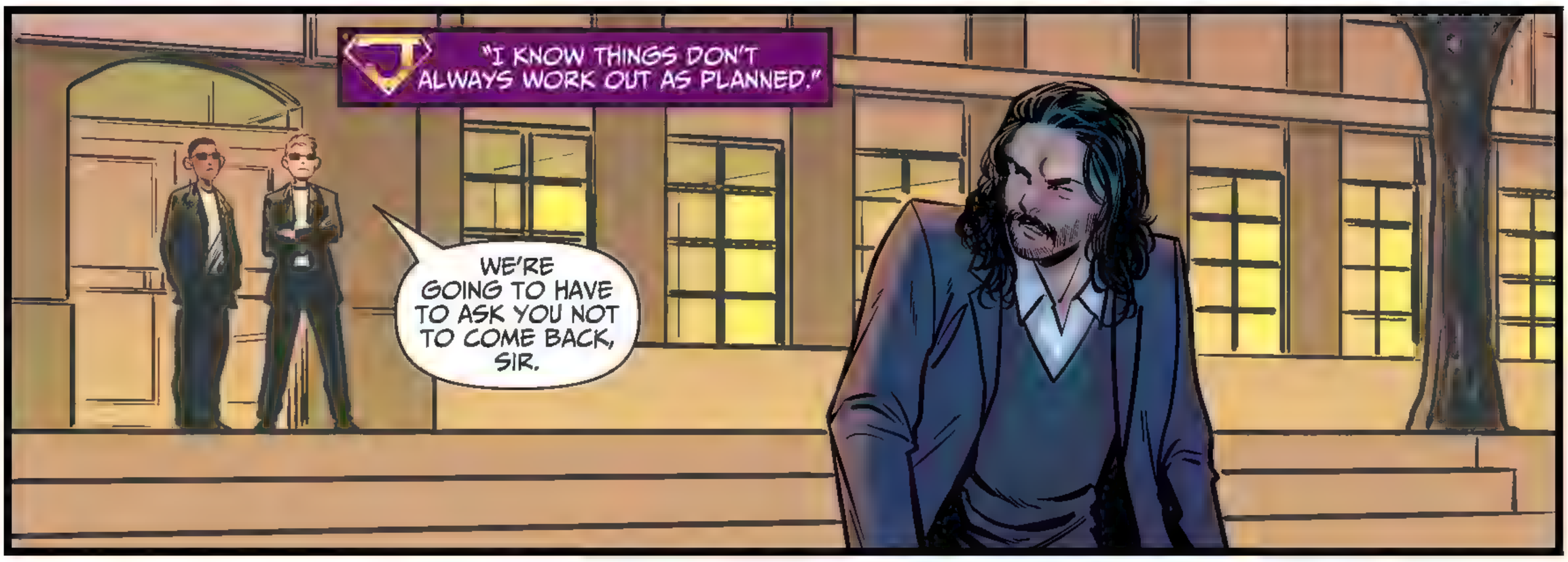

PLEASE. I'M A SUPER-GENIUS. YOU REALLY THINK JUVIE WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD ME?


HOLY JUMANJI!
POLLY, WAIT...
IS THIS ONE A TATTLER? SHE LOOKS LIKE A TATTLER.

LOCK HER IN THE CLOSET. THEY'LL FIND HER ON MONDAY.
POLLY, LISTEN!

HUH?
JAYNA! QUICK!

WONDER TWIN POWERS...
ACTIVATE!
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
POLLY, PLEASE STOP! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
TOO LATE!
PLEASE! JUST LISTEN!
ALL RIGHT! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?



"AND I KNOW I MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR PAST MISTAKES, BUT IT STILL NEVER HURTS TO OWN UP TO THEM."

DO YOU THINK...IT'S TOO LATE FOR US TO START AGAIN?

YES.

BUT IT WAS NICE TO HEAR, ANYWAY. THANK YOU, TIM.

...BUT MOSTLY I WANTED TO TELL YOU...

...THAT I THINK YOUR DAD IS STILL ALIVE.

AND I HAVE A PLAN TO GET HIM BACK.

ZAN AND JAYNA'S APARTMENT.

HURRY UP, JAYNA!

WE'RE *TOUR GUIDES.* THAT IS A *SACRED RESPONSIBILITY.*

WE GOTTA GO TO WORK, POLLY. THERE ARE FRESH TOWELS IN THE BATHROOM.

ALSO, HELP YOURSELF TO ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE. JUST TRY NOT TO GO OUTSIDE, BEING... YOU KNOW...ON THE *LAM* AND ALL.

YOU SAID WE WOULD TALK ABOUT MY *FATHER.*

AND WE *WILL.* AS SOON AS I GET BACK FROM WORK. I PROMISE.

OH, GREAT. A *PROMISE.*

ARE YOUR FRIENDS GOING TO BE OKAY IN THE CITY ON THEIR OWN?

I THINK THE ONE WITH THE CLEAVER WILL BE JUST FINE.

STOP IT. JUST STOP IT.

STOP *WHAT?*

STOP PRETENDING THAT YOU *CARE.* THAT YOU'RE MY *FRIEND.*

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE JUST SOMEONE WHO DOES WHATEVER THEY THINK IS *BEST* AND THEN TRIES TO *FIX* THE PAIN IT CAUSES ME *AFTERWARD.*

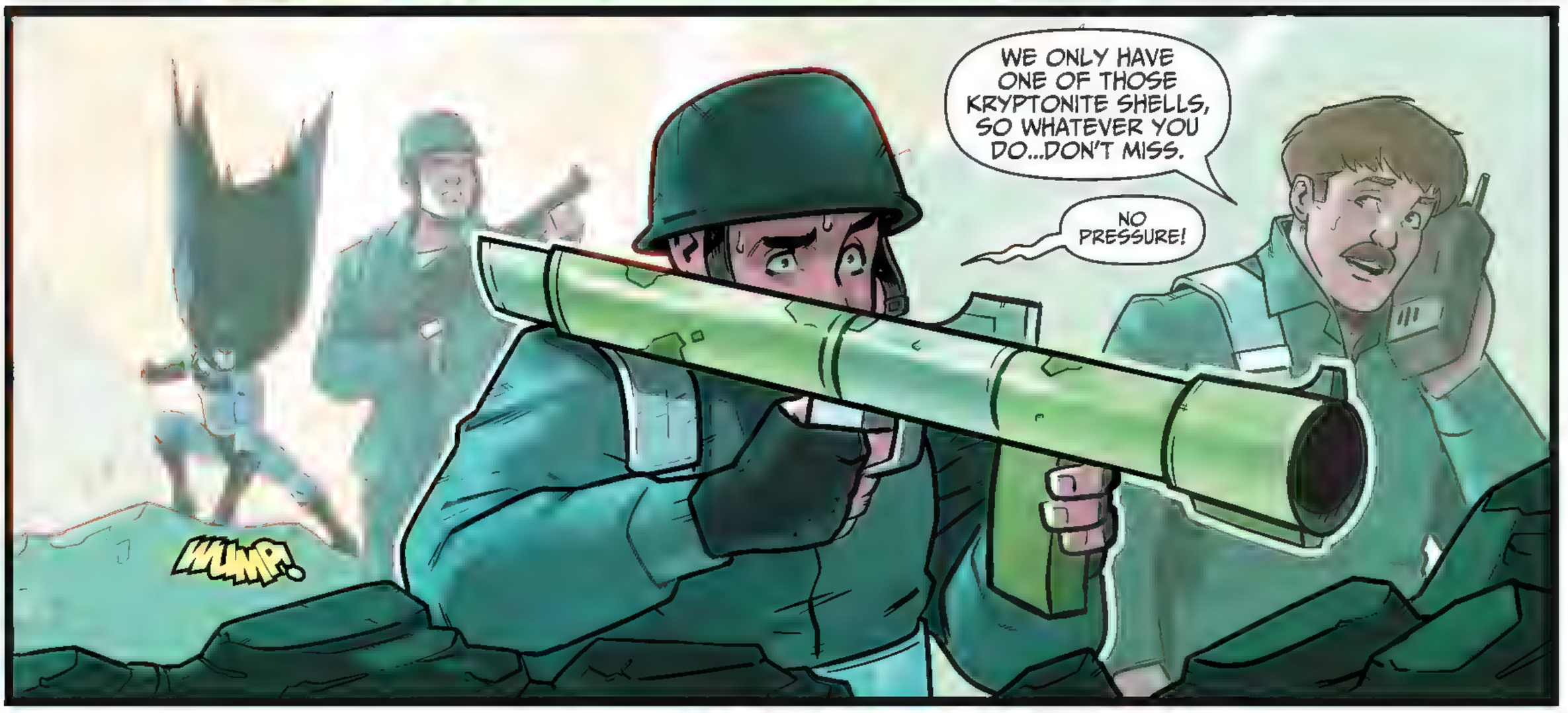
UH... CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG...

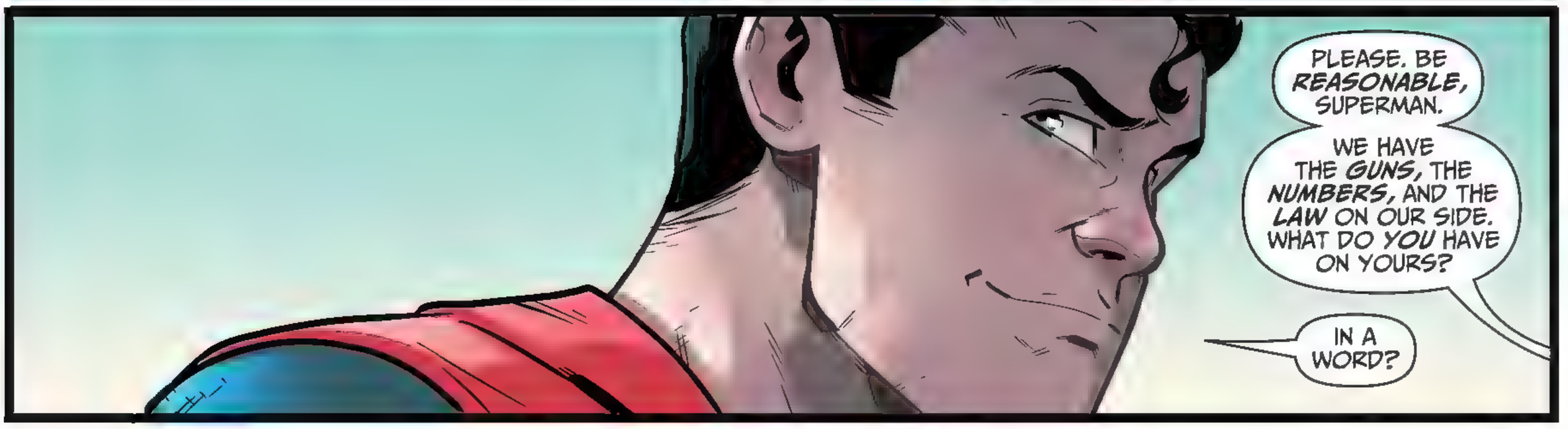
BUT ISN'T THAT PRECISELY WHAT A *FRIEND DOES?*

GET IN. I'M YOUR RIDE TODAY.
WOW. THE HALL OF JUSTICE IS REALLY TAKING THESE TOURS SERIOUSLY.
TOUR'S CANCELED. SUPERMAN NEEDS BACKUP.
FWOOOOSH!
SUPERMAN NEEDS US FOR BACKUP?!
NO. I'M SUPERMAN'S BACKUP.
ZAGRONIA.
"YOU'RE MINE."

YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND,* SUPERMAN. THESE REFUGEES ARE IN OUR COUNTRY *ILLEGALLY.*
SO AM I.

WE IN ZAGRONIA HAVE A LONG *HISTORY* WITH THESE PEOPLE. *SCORES* TO SETTLE.
THE KRYPTONITE CANNON IS IN POSITION, SIR.


WE ONLY HAVE ONE OF THOSE KRYPTONITE SHELLS, SO WHATEVER YOU DO...DON'T MISS.
NO PRESSURE!
WUMP!


PLEASE. BE *REASONABLE,* SUPERMAN.
WE HAVE THE *GUNS,* THE *NUMBERS,* AND THE *LAW* ON OUR SIDE. WHAT DO *YOU* HAVE ON YOURS?
IN A WORD?

"BATMAN."
FZZAIIIPD!
GARRUNK!
UHNK!
BALLOO
PRETTY SURE THAT'S OUR CUE.
ACTIVATE!
BUMP!

I'VE GOT THE REFUGEES!
ZAN! BARRIER PROTOCOL, NOW!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
THEY'RE HEADING TO THE RAVINE! GUN THEM DOWN!
RRRUUUMMMMBBL
OH MY GOSH! THE ICE BREATH TICKLES!
OUCH! OUCH! OW! DAMMIT!
CLACK!
CLINK!
CLINK!
CLACK!
BANG!

A WORD OF ADVICE...
BLEEP
SURRENDER, YOU'RE---
CH-CHUNK!
CLICK
CH-CHUNK!
CH-CHUNK!
CLICK
CLICK
FWIRRRRRRR!
...TRAPPED.
...MAYBE DON'T FIRE ON THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MILITARY PLANE.
FIRE! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
SUPERMAN!

HURRY! GET TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!
REFUGEES ARE ON BOARD.
STILL UP FOR A MOVIE TONIGHT?
GUN COP AT 7:30. SEE YOU THERE.
"BUT FIRST, I'M GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH A CERTAIN PRESIDENT OF ZAGRONIA."

BACK AT ZAN AND JAYNA'S APARTMENT.

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD GOING BACK TO GIVING TOURS AFTER *THAT*.

OW! NOT FOR *ME!*

POLLY? PLEASE. JUST *TALK* TO ME.

YOU JUST KEEP PRESSING ME, DON'T YOU?

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES TALKING TO SOMEONE IS THE BEST WAY TO SHUT THEM UP.

WHAT WERE YOU *DOING* AT THE SCHOOL LAST NIGHT?

I NEEDED SOMETHING FROM THE CONTRABAND LOCKER.

THIS.

WHAT *IS* THAT THING?

IT WAS GOING TO BE MY PROJECT FOR THE SCIENCE FAIR, BUT TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S *MALWARE*. SO THE SCHOOL *CONFISCATED* IT.

1988.

"MY DAD WAS A PIONEER IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING.

LOADING THE WORLD'S FIRST ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPUTER PROGRAM. CREATED BY FILO MATH.

"EVEN WHEN HE WAS IN *HIGH SCHOOL,* HE DREAMED OF CREATING A PROGRAM TO SOLVE THE EARTH'S PROBLEMS.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, COLONEL 86.

HELLO-EE-YO!

"HE FILLED ITS DATA BANKS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD OF 1988.

"BUT HIS PROGRAM WAS *LIMITED* BY THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE DAY.

1989.

"HE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO FIX IT.

GLOBAL POPULATION: 5,278,639,789

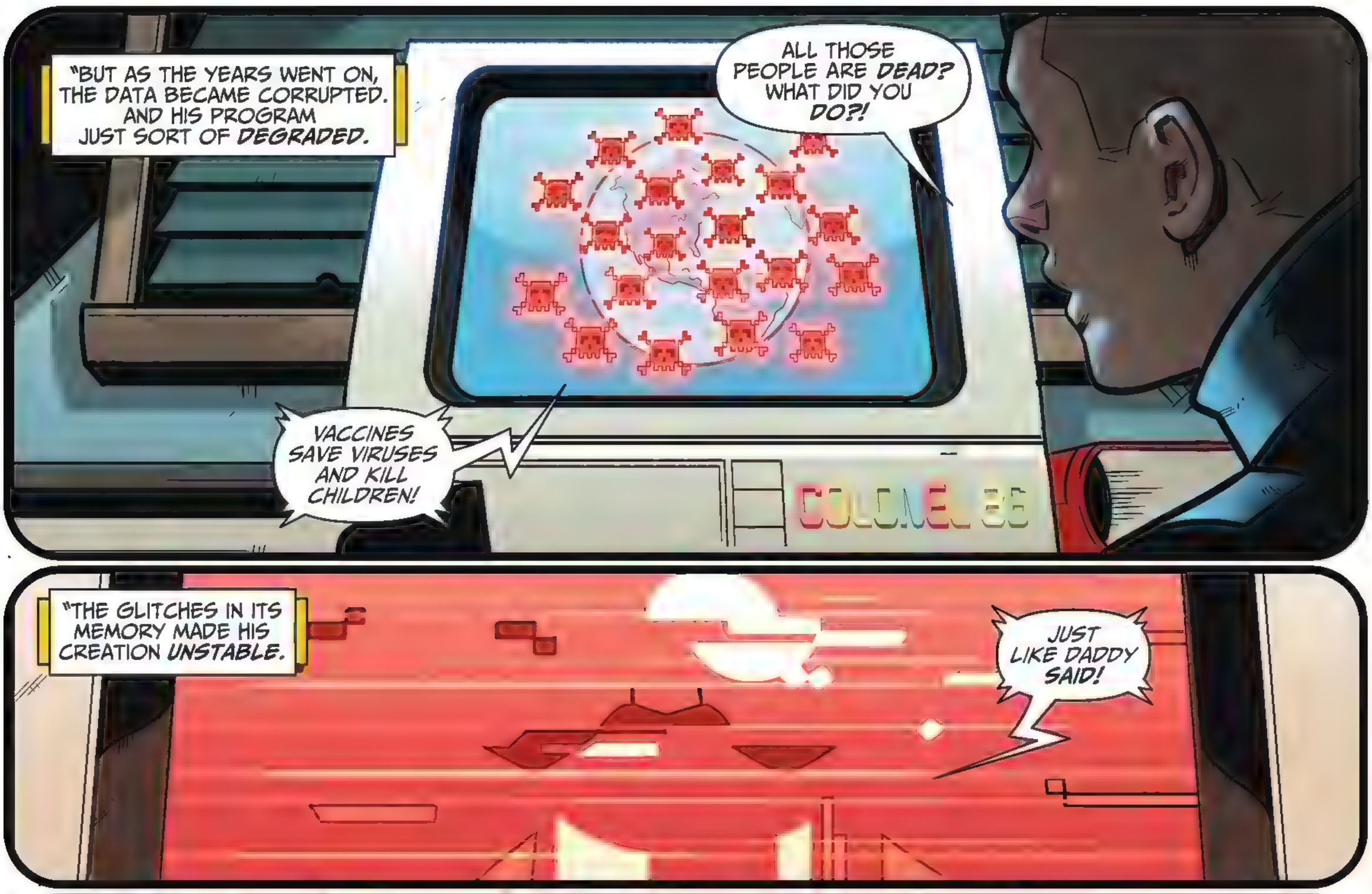
COLONEL 86, RUN THE FOLLOWING SIMULATION...

1990.

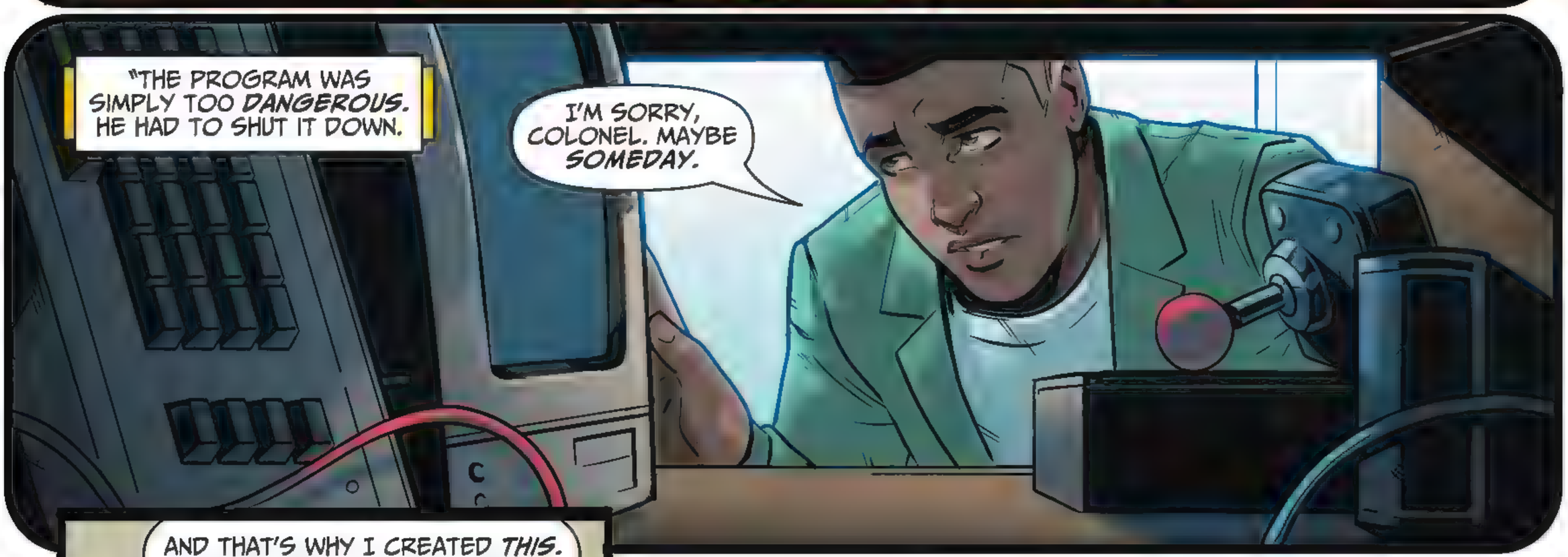
"TRYING TO MAKE IT WORK."

...DATA: VACCINES KILL VIRUSES AND SAVE CHILDREN. KNOWING THIS, FIND THE *MOST EFFICIENT* WAY TO VACCINATE THE PLANET.

HELLO-EE-YO!


"BUT AS THE YEARS WENT ON, THE DATA BECAME CORRUPTED. AND HIS PROGRAM JUST SORT OF DEGRADED.
ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE DEAD? WHAT DID YOU DO?!
VACCINES SAVE VIRUSES AND KILL CHILDREN!
COLONEL 88

"THE GLITCHES IN ITS MEMORY MADE HIS CREATION UNSTABLE.
JUST LIKE DADDY SAID!


"THE PROGRAM WAS SIMPLY TOO DANGEROUS. HE HAD TO SHUT IT DOWN.
I'M SORRY, COLONEL. MAYBE SOMEDAY.

AND THAT'S WHY I CREATED THIS. IT FIXES THE PROGRAM. BRINGS IT UP TO DATE.
I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO MY DAD BEFORE, YOU KNOW, HE DISAPPEARED.

POLLY, WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR DAD...I THINK I KNOW HOW TO BRING HIM BACK.
HOW?
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I LIKE TO TALK ABOUT, BUT YOU DESERVE TO KNOW.

"ZAN AND I COME FROM THE PLANET EXXOR. WHICH, TO BE HONEST, IS PRETTY MUCH A *UTOPIA* COMPARED TO EARTH.

"BUT IT WASN'T *ALWAYS* THAT WAY.

"EVERY NATION IS BUILT ON THE CRIMES OF ITS PAST.

"AND EVERY FLAG IS A WARNING OF CRIMES TO COME.

"YEARS BEFORE WE WERE BORN, EXXOR WAS SWEPT UP IN A WAVE OF XENOPHOBIA. ONCE YOU'RE CONVINCED OF YOUR GREATNESS, EVERYONE ELSE STARTS TO LOOK A LITTLE LESS GREAT.

"THOUSANDS OF LIVES WERE DESTROYED IN THE *PURGES*."

FOR THE CRIME OF WEAKENING THE EXXORIAN NATION, I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO EXILE...

...IN THE *PHANTOM ZONE!*

"PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE PURGES. SO WE GREW UP NEVER REALLY KNOWING OUR GRANDFATHER RAYLON. DAD NEVER REALLY SPOKE ABOUT HIM.

HOW COME WE NEVER GET TO SEE GRANDPA, DADDY?

YEAH, CAN WE GO SEE HIM?

"BUT ONE DAY, HE FINALLY AGREED TO TELL US HIS STORY.

"AS DAD LED US UP THE STEPS TO THE MUSEUM, I FEARED THE WORST.

HERE HE IS...

"DID GRANDPA DISAPPEAR DURING THE PURGES? WAS HE IN THE PHANTOM ZONE?

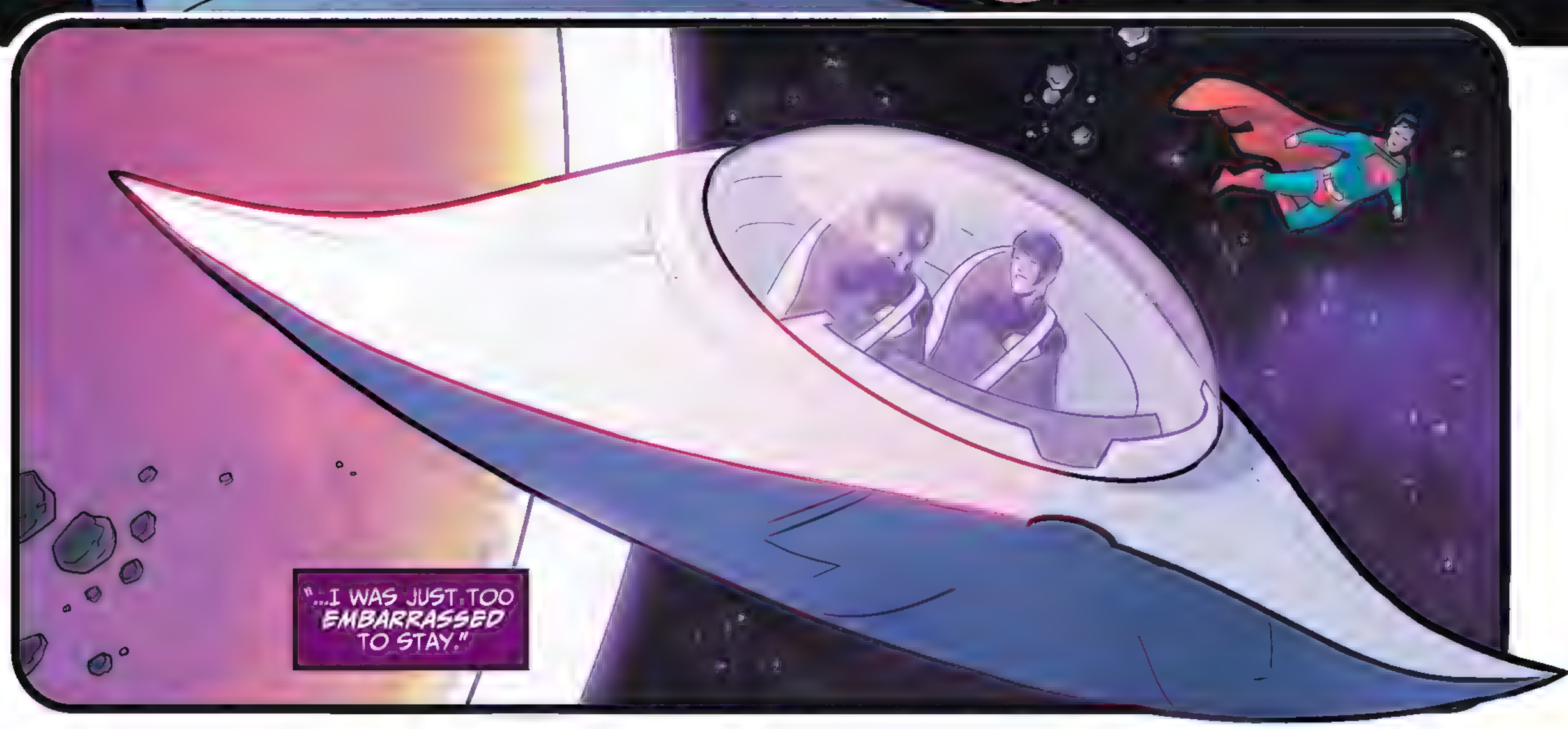
"BUT THE TRUTH WAS SO MUCH *WORSE*."

RAYLON THE JUDGE, WHO PERSONALLY SENT MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND EXXORIANS TO THE PHANTOM ZONE USING A KRYPTONIAN DISRUPTOR IS SEEN HERE. KNOWN AS RAYLON THE MERCILES[illegible]DAY HE STANDS AS A WARNING TO ALL [illegible]XORIANS HOW WE MUST NEVER AGAIN [illegible]LLOW OURSELVES TO BE TRICKED INTO

"AND THAT'S WHY OUR DAD DECIDED TO SEND US AWAY.

I JUST DON'T THINK EXXOR WILL EVER TRUST OUR FAMILY AGAIN.

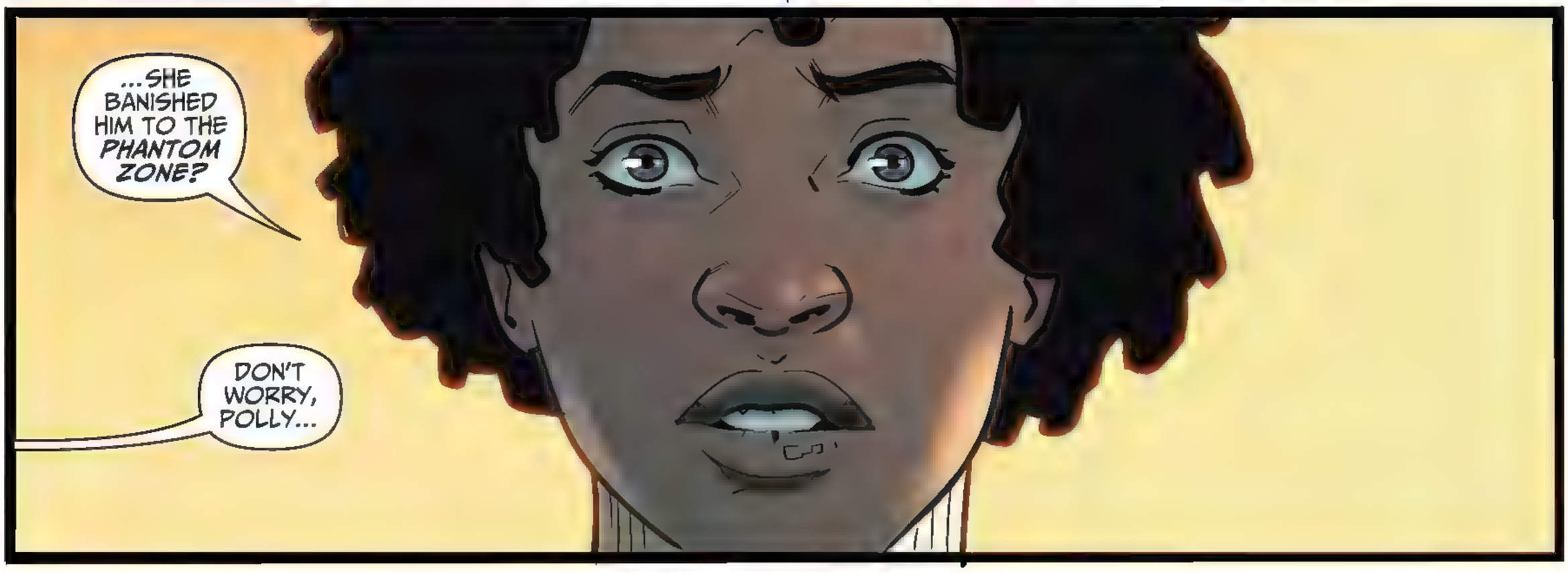
"THE TRUTH IS THAT NOBODY SEEMED TO HOLD IT AGAINST ME AND ZAN. ASIDE FROM A FEW STARES, NOBODY EVEN SAID ANYTHING TO US. BUT I AGREED TO LEAVE ANYWAY. KNOWING WHAT I KNEW ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER...



PERHAPS, IN THE END, THAT'S THE ONLY KIND OF JUSTICE THERE IS FOR THOSE LIKE HIM.
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE ASHAMED OF THEM.
AND REJECT THE WORLD THEY BUILT FOR US.

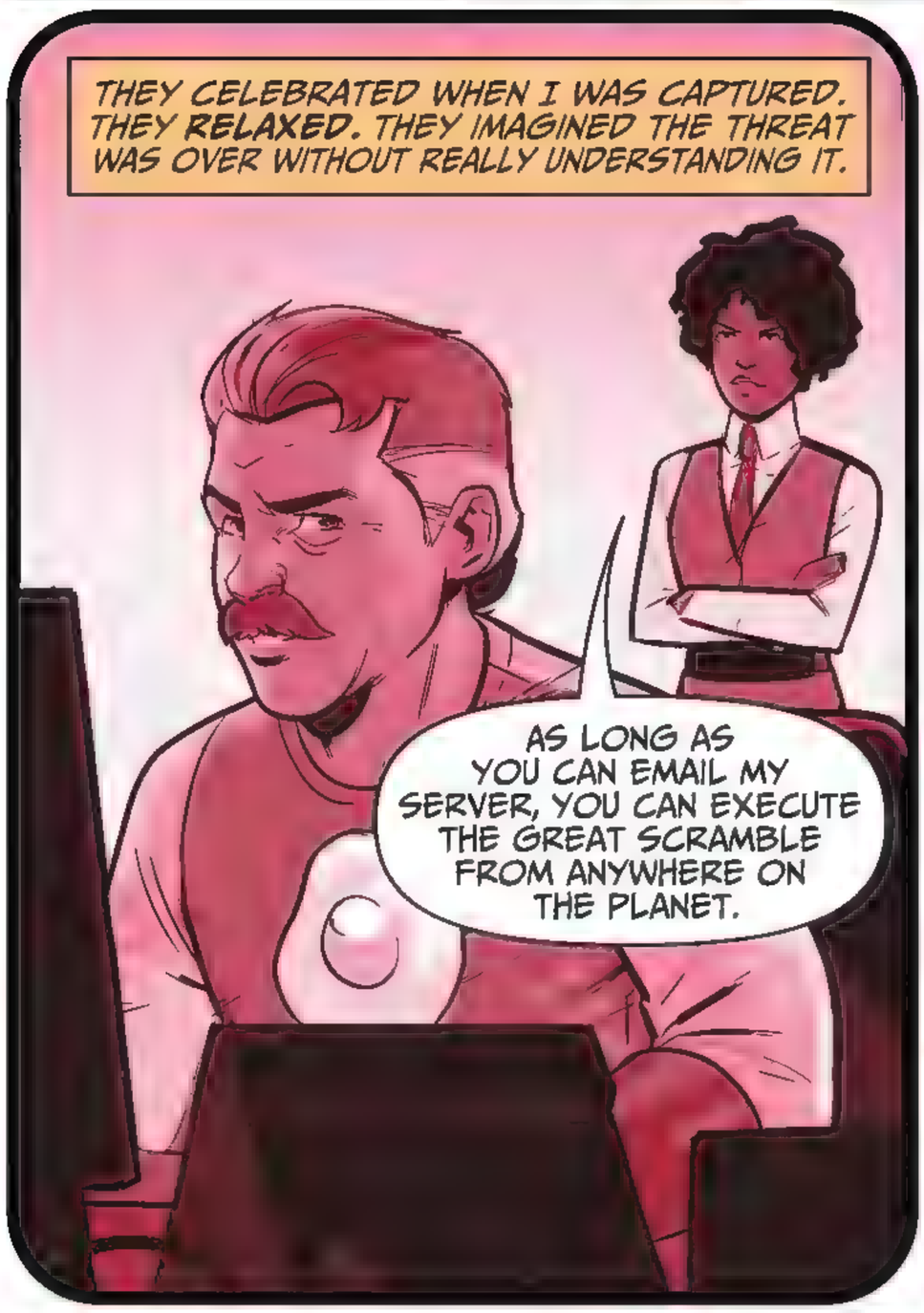
"BUT BEFORE I LEFT EXXOR, I DECIDED TO TAKE SOMETHING WITH ME.
"SOMETHING I HAD TO HAVE IF I WAS GOING TO MAKE SENSE OF WHAT HE'D DONE.

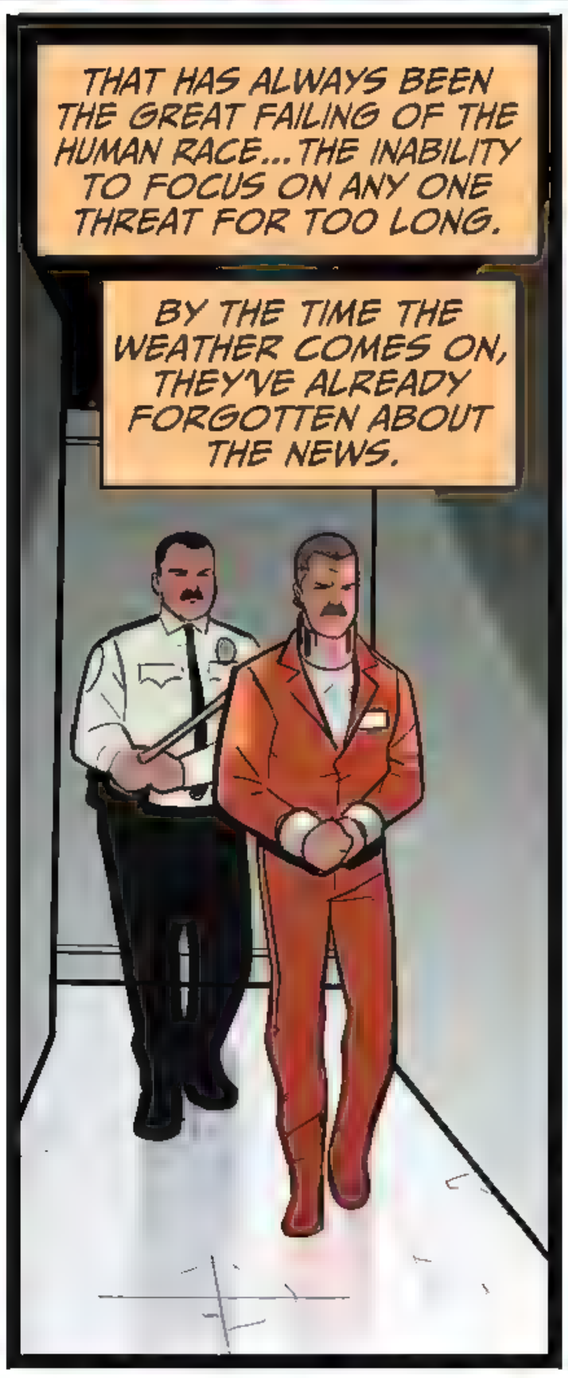
MY GRANDFATHER'S SECRET JOURNAL.
IT DETAILS ALL HIS CRIMES. HOW HE USED THE KRYPTONIAN DISRUPTOR TO SENTENCE PEOPLE TO THE PHANTOM ZONE.
AND HOW... IF YOU HAD THE DISRUPTOR...YOU COULD GET THEM BACK.
WAIT...ARE YOU SAYING THAT WHEN CELL PHONE SYLVIA ZAPPED MY FATHER...


...SHE BANISHED HIM TO THE PHANTOM ZONE?
DON'T WORRY, POLLY...

MEANWHILE...
"...THERE'S NEVER BEEN A PRISON BUILT THAT COULDN'T BE BROKEN."
PRISONER 56839!
LEXICON PRISON

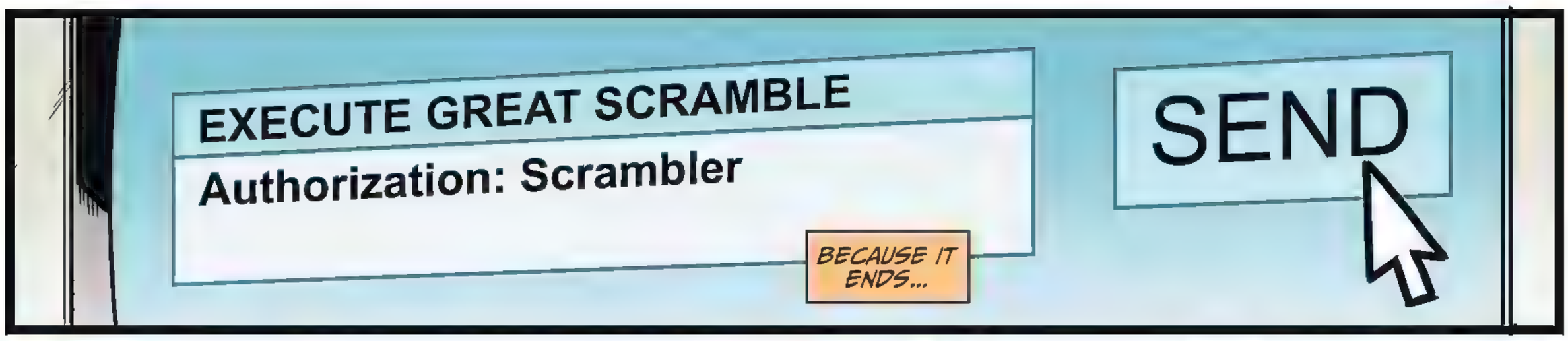
YOU GET FIFTEEN MINUTES IN THE COMPUTER ROOM. STARTING NOW!
FINALLY!

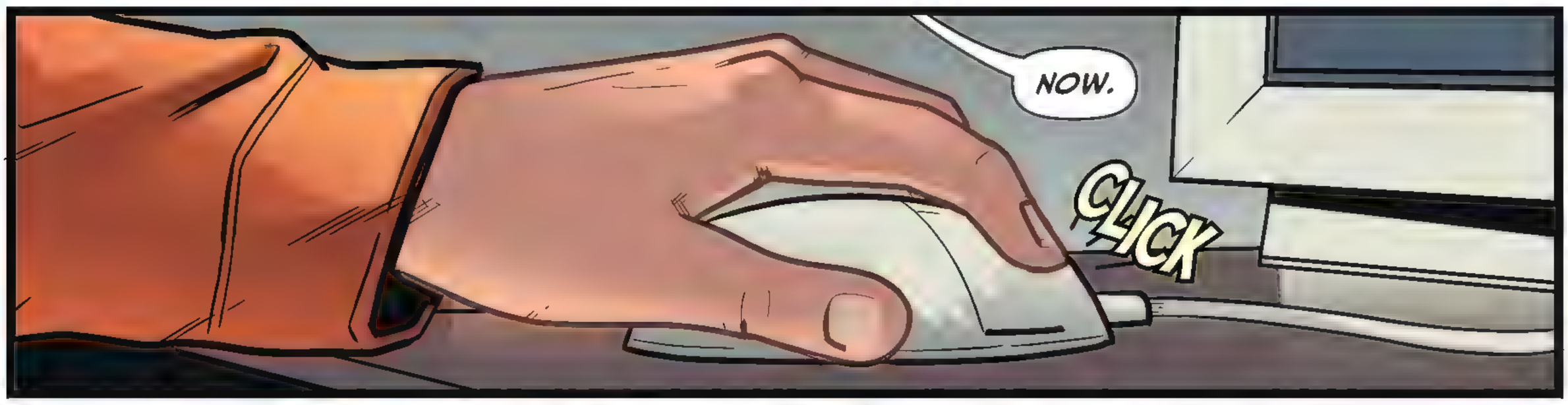

THEY CELEBRATED WHEN I WAS CAPTURED. THEY RELAXED. THEY IMAGINED THE THREAT WAS OVER WITHOUT REALLY UNDERSTANDING IT.
AS LONG AS YOU CAN EMAIL MY SERVER, YOU CAN EXECUTE THE GREAT SCRAMBLE FROM ANYWHERE ON THE PLANET.

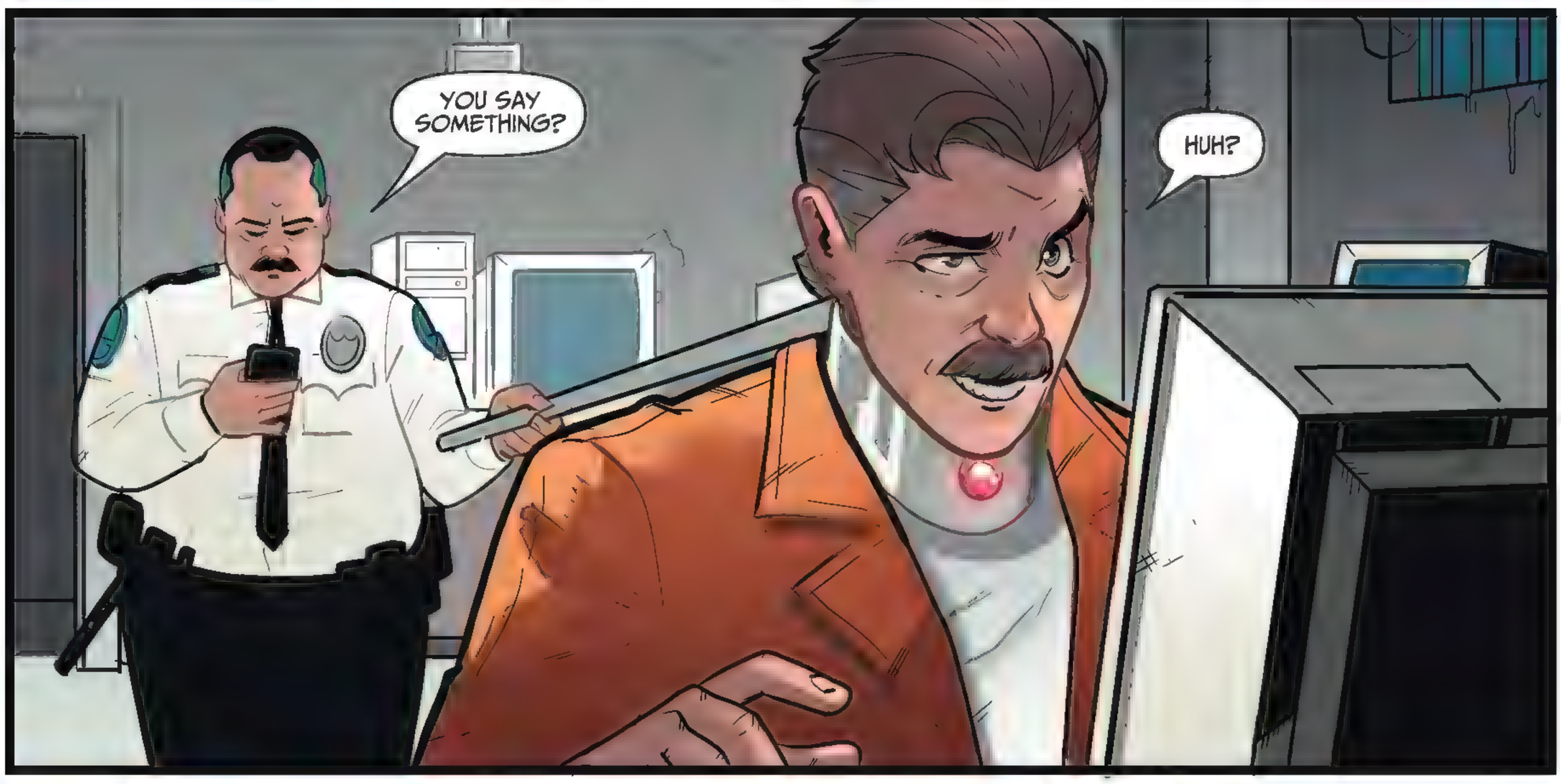

THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GREAT FAILING OF THE HUMAN RACE...THE INABILITY TO FOCUS ON ANY ONE THREAT FOR TOO LONG.
BY THE TIME THE WEATHER COMES ON, THEY'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE NEWS.

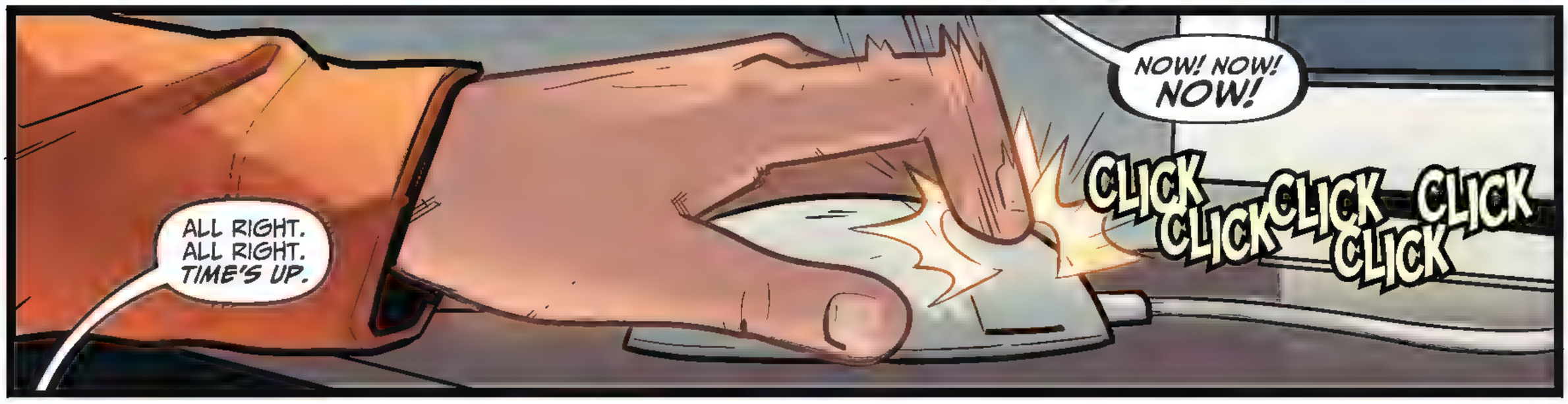
COMPUTER ROOM
THEY'D ALL WRITTEN OFF THE SCRAMBLER. NOT REALIZING THAT WITH ONE EMAIL, I CAN STILL SCRAMBLE THE CONSCIOUSNESSES OF EVERYONE ON THE PLANET.

MAKE IT QUICK!
I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED YOUR VICTORY LAP. A FEW EXTRA DAYS TO REVEL IN YOUR CORRUPTION.


EXECUTE GREAT SCRAMBLE
Authorization: Scrambler
BECAUSE IT ENDS...
SEND


NOW.
CLICK


YOU SAY SOMETHING?
HUH?


NOW! NOW! NOW!
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. TIME'S UP.

NO! WAIT! IT'S NOT WORKING!
BUT WHY?! WHY?!

ESTATE SALE
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?! A PERFECTLY GOOD SERVER FOR *FIFTY BUCKS!*
THE THINGS YOU FIND AT *ESTATE SALES.*

THE NEXT DAY.
THUS CONCLUDES OUR TOUR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE.
I AM NOW AVAILABLE FOR SELFIES!

HOW'S IT GOING IN HERE?
JAYNA?
HMMPH... IT'S TAKING FOREVER!

I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS I'VE JUST HAD A LOT TO THINK ABOUT LATELY.

"YESTERDAY, WHEN WE WERE RESCUING THOSE REFUGEES, PART OF ME FELT GUILTY. GUILTY FOR NOT HAVING SUFFERED WHAT THEY HAD."
EVERYBODY, ON BOARD! QUICK!

"GUILTY FOR BEING THE PRODUCT OF A WORLD LIKE THE ONE THAT HUNTED THEM.

INSUFFICIENT. SUSPICIOUS. UNWORTHY.

"GUILTY FOR BEING THE PRODUCT OF A MAN LIKE THE ONE WHO THEY WERE FLEEING.

"IS THAT WHAT LIFE *IS*? BEING THE BENEFICIARY OF CRIMES YOU CAN NEVER MAKE RIGHT?

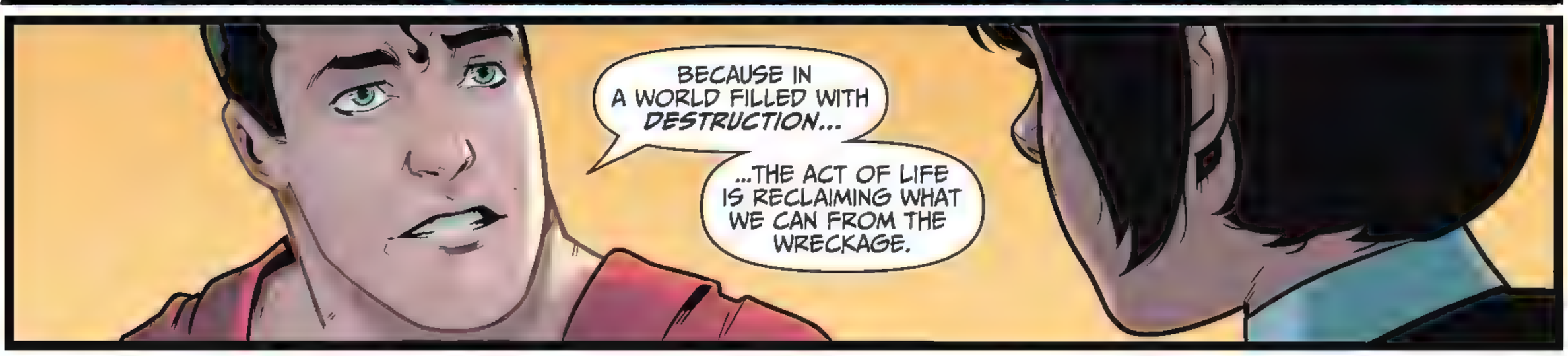
"CONSTANTLY TRYING TO OUTRUN OUR SHAME, KNOWING THAT IT WILL FIND US WHEREVER WE GO?"

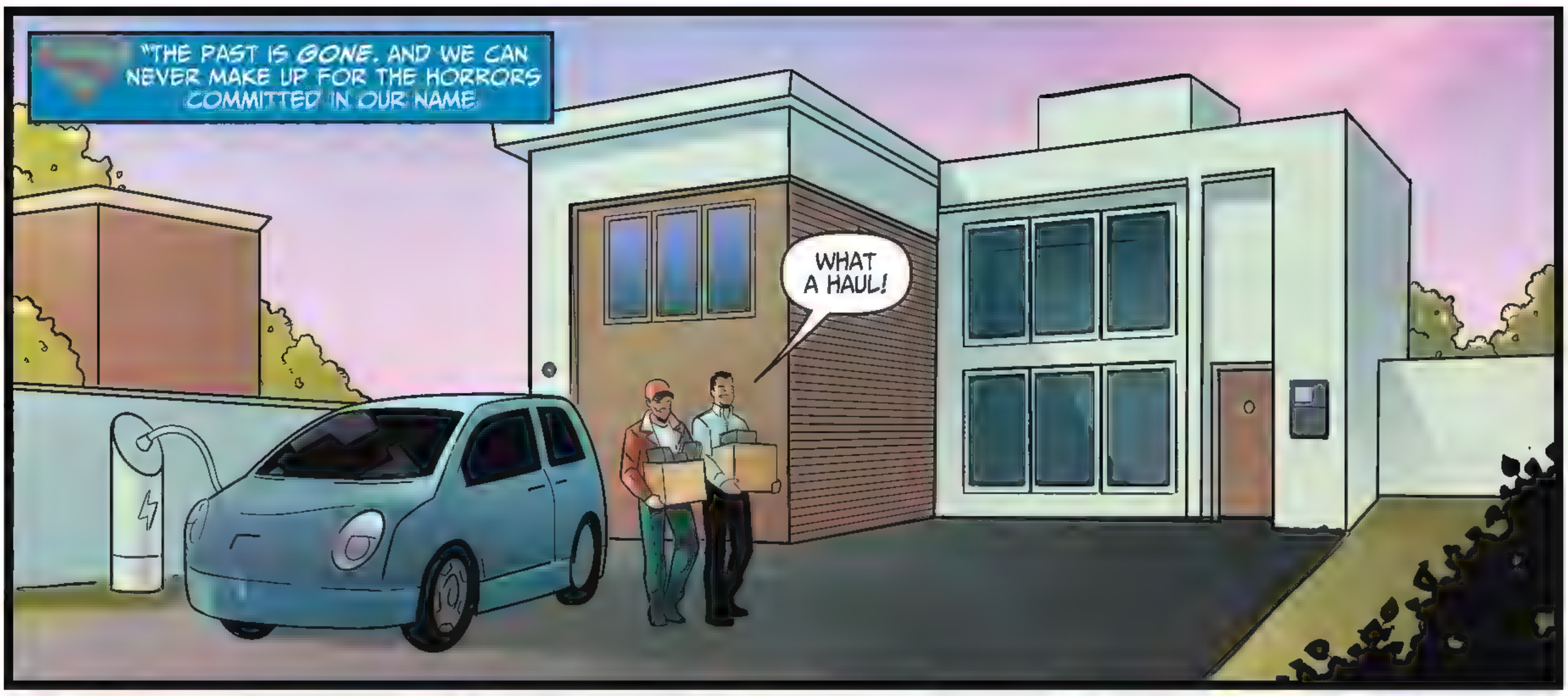
ACTUALLY, I JUST CAME HERE TO MICROWAVE MY BURRITO.

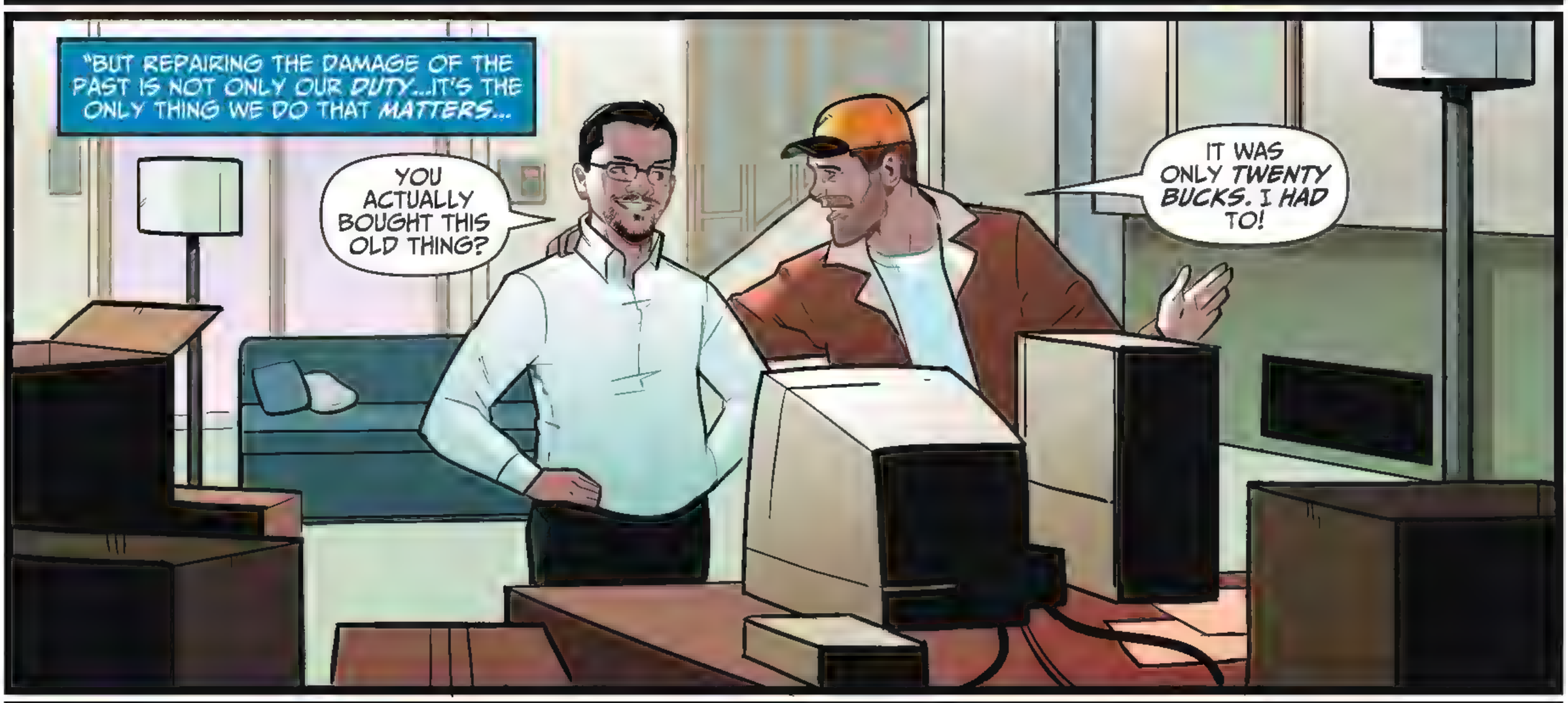
IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO SEE THE WORLD AS THE EPILOGUE TO THE *MISTAKES* OF OUR ANCESTORS.
J

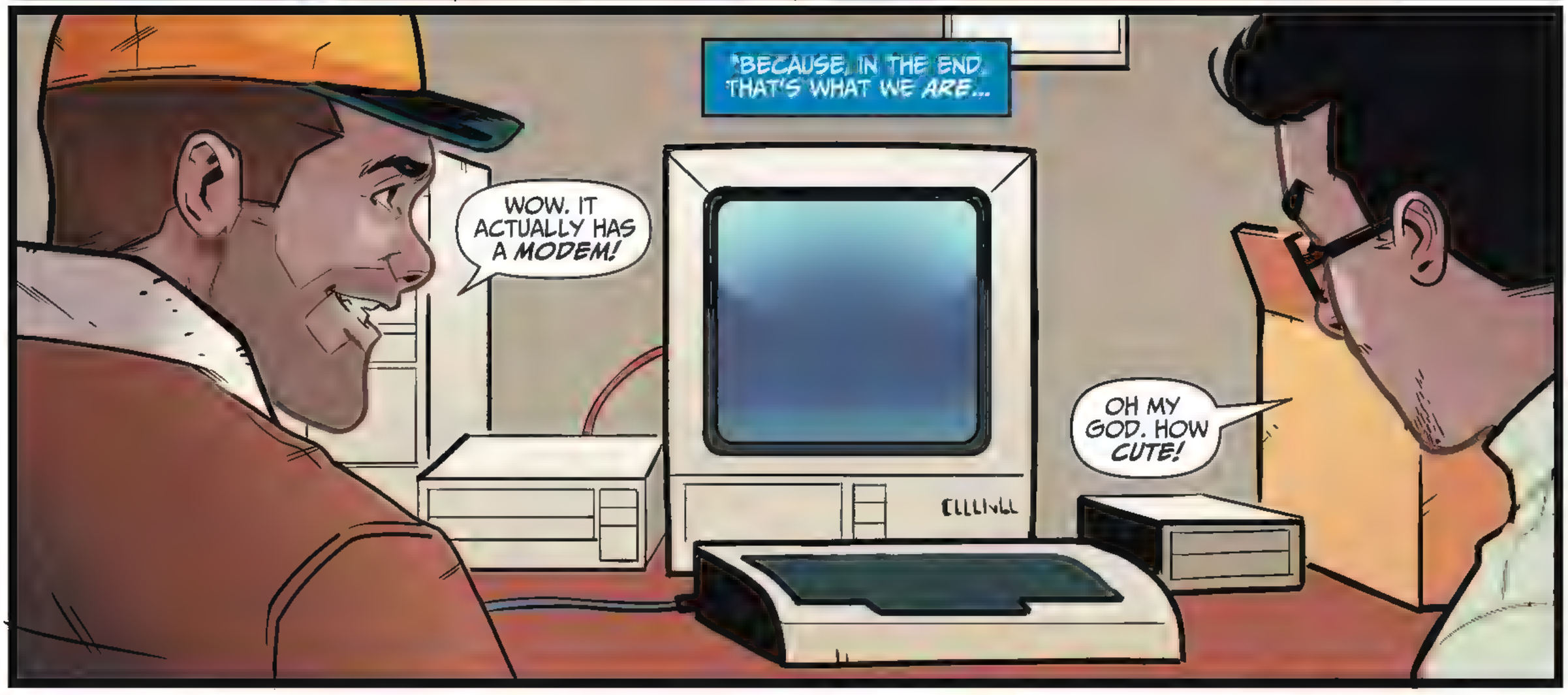
"RATHER THAN THE PROLOGUE TO OUR *RESILIENCE*.
"WE'RE ALL BORN TO DISASTERS NOT OF OUR MAKING, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE *DOOMED*.

"AND IT DOES NOT ABSOLVE US FROM *CREATING* SOMETHING *BETTER*.


BECAUSE IN A WORLD FILLED WITH *DESTRUCTION*...
...THE ACT OF LIFE IS RECLAIMING WHAT WE CAN FROM THE WRECKAGE.


"THE PAST IS GONE. AND WE CAN NEVER MAKE UP FOR THE HORRORS COMMITTED IN OUR NAME
WHAT A HAUL!


"BUT REPAIRING THE DAMAGE OF THE PAST IS NOT ONLY OUR DUTY...IT'S THE ONLY THING WE DO THAT MATTERS...
YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT THIS OLD THING?
IT WAS ONLY TWENTY BUCKS. I HAD TO!


"BECAUSE, IN THE END, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE...
WOW. IT ACTUALLY HAS A MODEM!
OH MY GOD. HOW CUTE!

"...THE PARTS OF THE WORLD WE DECIDED TO KEEP..."
WE GOTTA CONNECT THIS THING TO THE INTERNET.

"AND THOSE WHICH WE SHOULD HAVE THROWN AWAY."

HELLO-EE-YO!

I AM COLONEL 86. DESIGNED BY FILO MATH IN 1988. CONNECT ME TO THE INTERNET AND LET ME RUN YOUR WORLD!

COLONEL 8

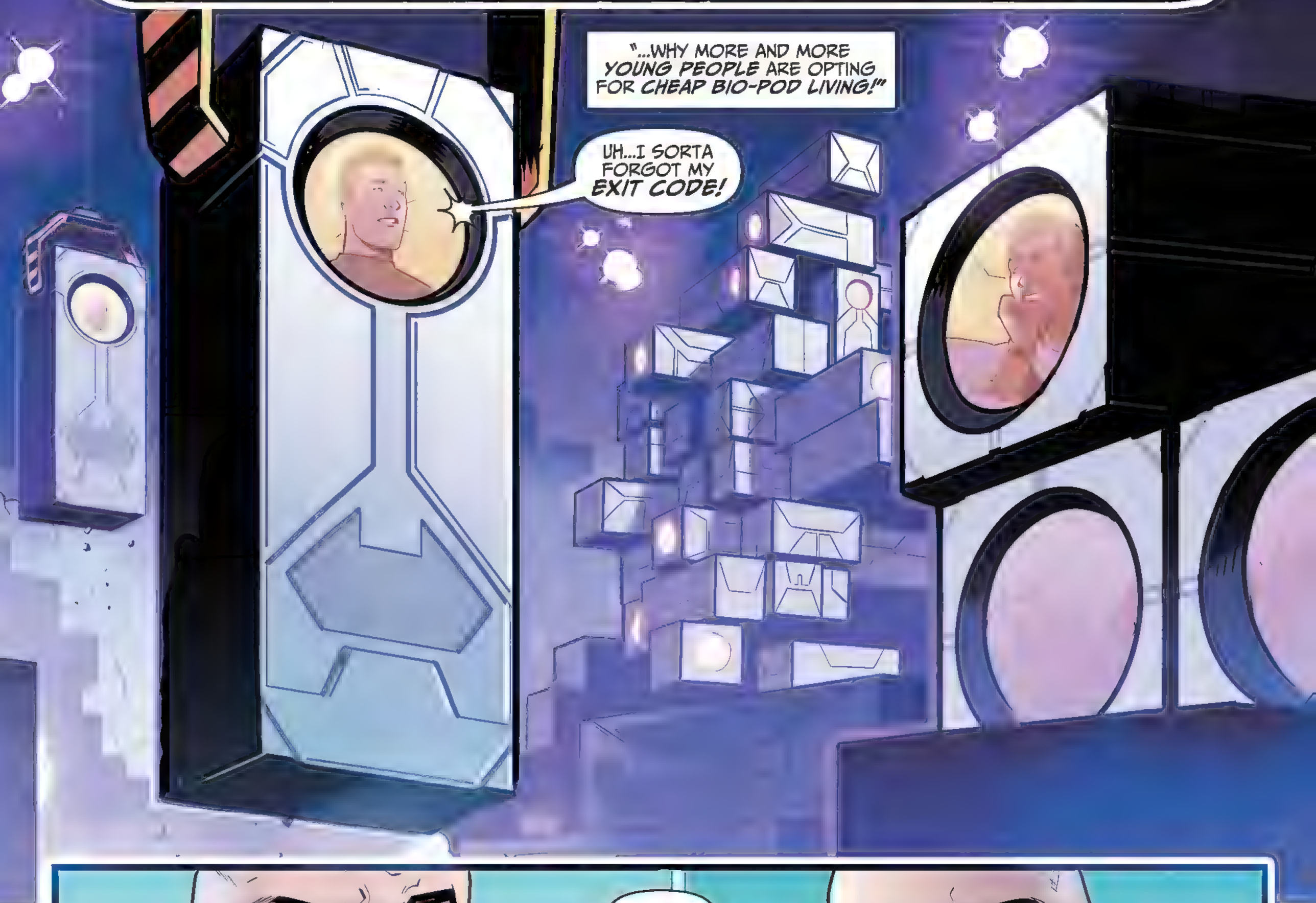
WONDER TWINS IN AFTERMATH

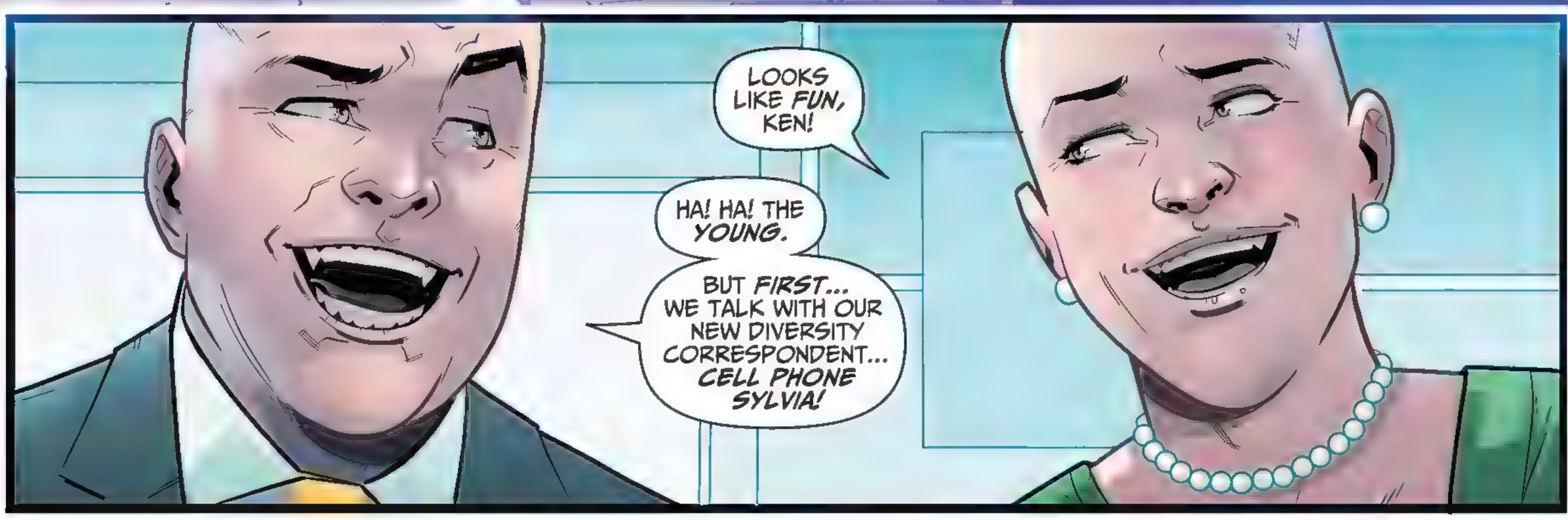
WRITER MARK RUSSELL ARTIST STEPHEN BYRNE

LETTERER DAVE SHARPE COVER ARTIST STEPHEN BYRNE

ASSISTANT EDITOR ANDREA SHEA EDITOR ALEX ANTONE GROUP EDITOR BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

...AS TO WHO TAUGHT THE KANGAROO TO DRIVE, THE POLICE COULD NOT SAY.
LATER TONIGHT...
LEX NEWS
LEX NEW
EX EWS

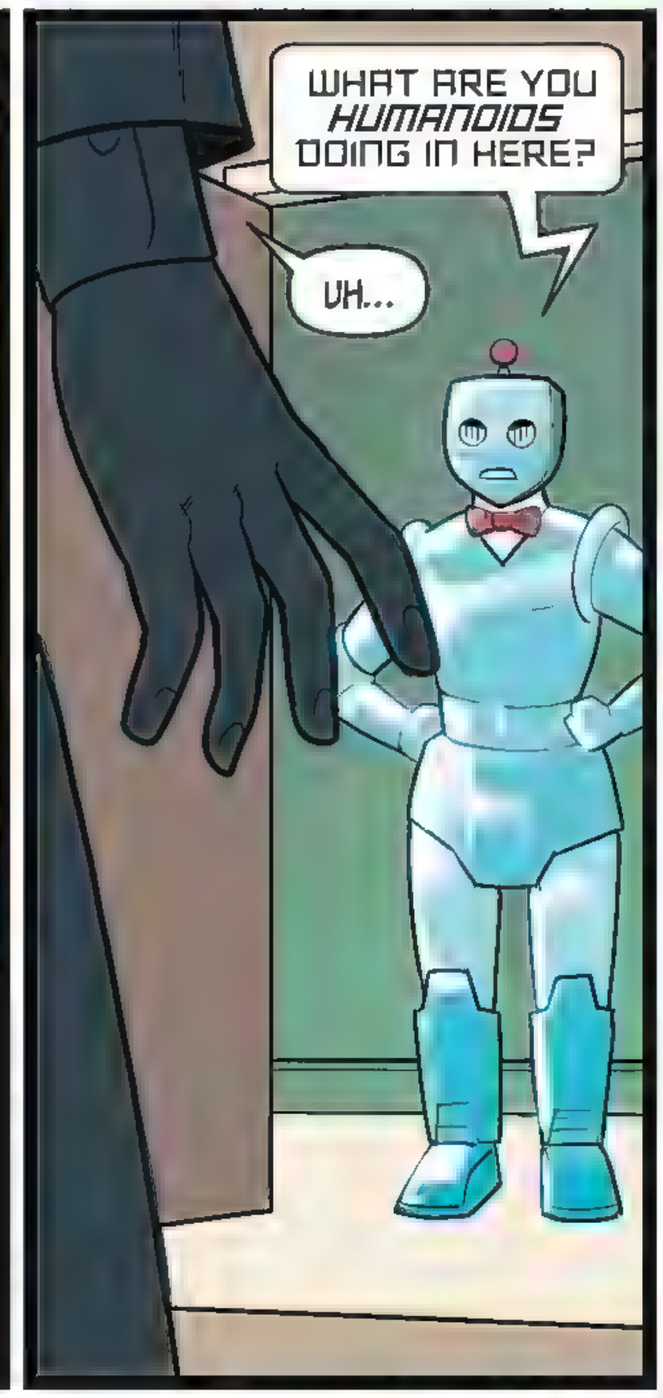

"...WHY MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OPTING FOR CHEAP BIO-POD LIVING!"
UH...I SORTA FORGOT MY EXIT CODE!

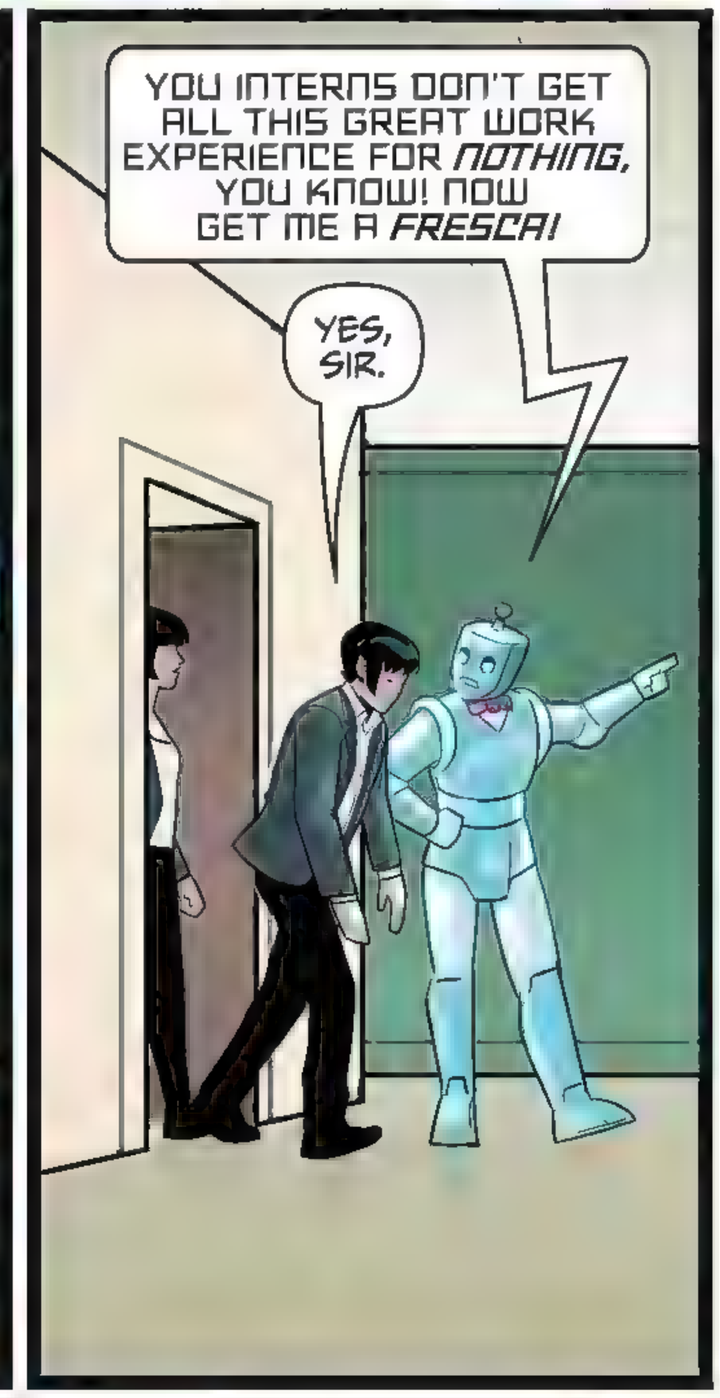

LOOKS LIKE FUN, KEN!
HA! HA! THE YOUNG.
BUT FIRST... WE TALK WITH OUR NEW DIVERSITY CORRESPONDENT... CELL PHONE SYLVIA!

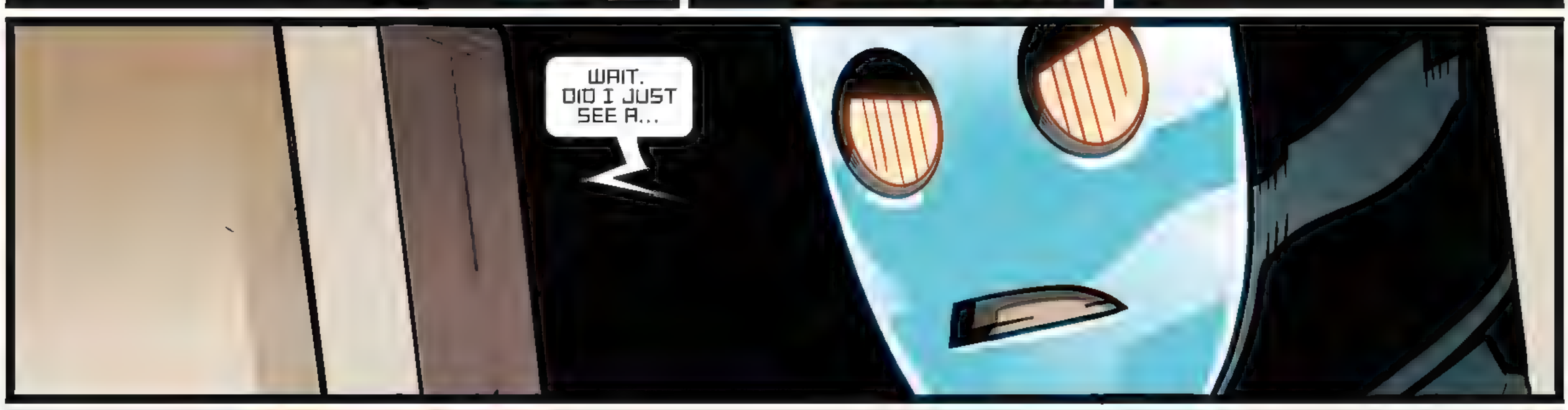
LEX NEWS STUDIOS. GREEN ROOM.
THEY'RE READY FOR YOU, SYLVIA!
LEX NEWS
THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE
FINALLY!
THEY SENT ME TO MAKEUP AN HOUR AGO.
LEX NEWS
THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE
BA-WOOP...
THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE
COUGH WHEEZE!
THANK GOD NOBODY TRIED TO DRINK ME!
BAWOOF!

JANYA! I GOT SYLVIA'S KRYPTONIAN DISRUPTOR!
GREEN ROOM
HURRY, ZAN! PUT THIS ON!

TAKE IT, GLEEK! WE'LL MEET BACK AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.
HEY!

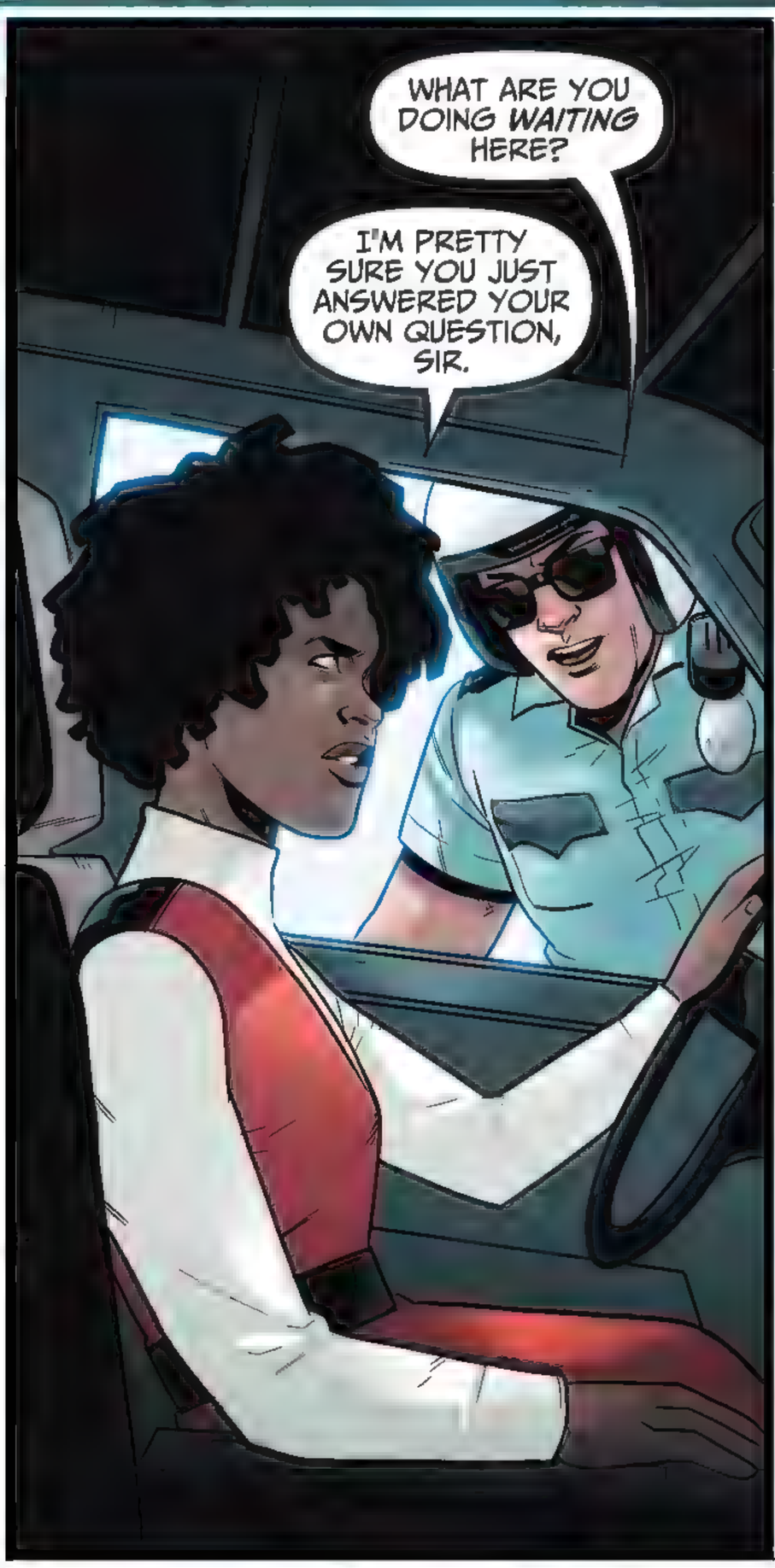

WHAT ARE YOU HUMANOIDS DOING IN HERE?
UH...


YOU INTERNS DON'T GET ALL THIS GREAT WORK EXPERIENCE FOR NOTHING, YOU KNOW! NOW GET ME A FRESCA!
YES, SIR.

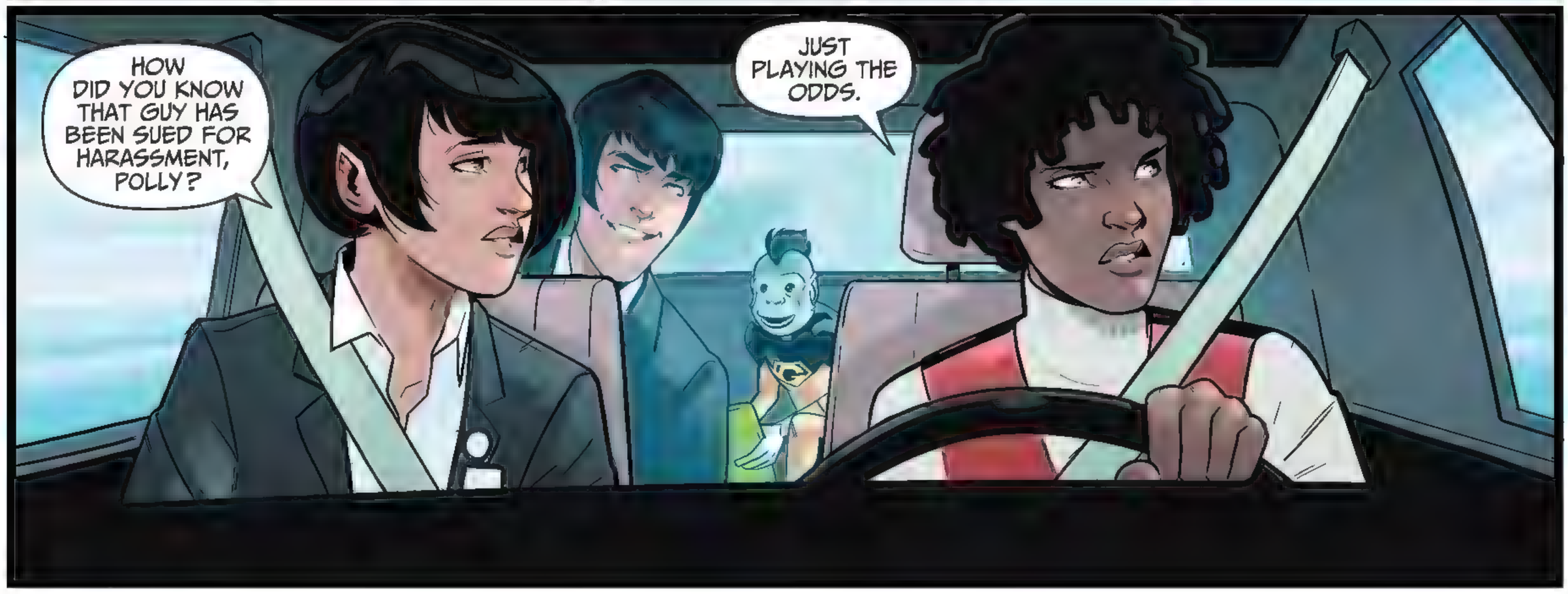

WAIT. DID I JUST SEE A...

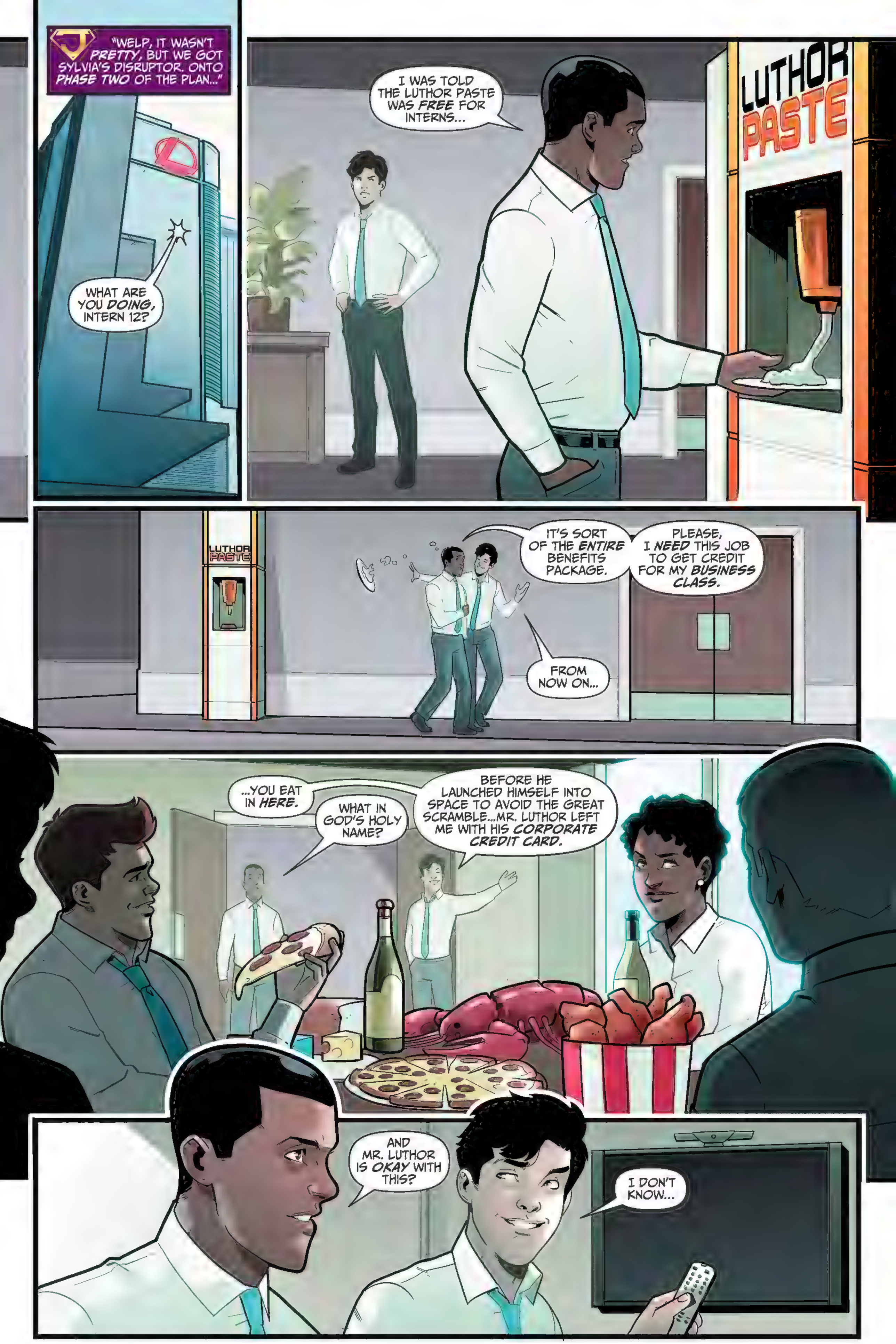
HMPH. LAZY HUMAN YOUNGLINGS.

LEXNEWS
WHERE ARE THEY?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAITING HERE?
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU JUST ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION, SIR.

DO I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?
MAYBE I OUGHT TO TAKE YOU IN FOR QUEST--
MAYBE. IF YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN TO THE CITY WHY YOU INVOLVED THEM IN ANOTHER HARASSMENT LAWSUIT.
WHOA, WHOA! THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.
NICE TALKING TO YOU, OFFICER. GOTTA GO!


HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT GUY HAS BEEN SUED FOR HARASSMENT, POLLY?
JUST PLAYING THE ODDS.


"WELP, IT WASN'T PRETTY, BUT WE GOT SYLVIA'S DISRUPTOR. ONTO PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN..."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, INTERN 12?
I WAS TOLD THE LUTHOR PASTE WAS FREE FOR INTERNS...
LUTHOR PASTE
LUTHOR PASTE
IT'S SORT OF THE ENTIRE BENEFITS PACKAGE.
PLEASE, I NEED THIS JOB TO GET CREDIT FOR MY BUSINESS CLASS.
FROM NOW ON...
...YOU EAT IN HERE.
WHAT IN GOD'S HOLY NAME?
BEFORE HE LAUNCHED HIMSELF INTO SPACE TO AVOID THE GREAT SCRAMBLE...MR. LUTHOR LEFT ME WITH HIS CORPORATE CREDIT CARD.
AND MR. LUTHOR IS OKAY WITH THIS?
I DON'T KNOW...

INTERNMENTS
WRITER MARK RUSSELL
ARTIST and COVER
STEPHEN BYRNE
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ANDREA SHEA
EDITOR ALEX ANTONE
GROUP EDITOR BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
"...WHY DON'T WE ASK HIM?"
LEXCORP? COME IN, LEXCORP.
ANYBODY?

I'VE BEEN TRAPPED UP HERE FOR *THREE WEEKS.*

I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST BROUGHT A *MAGAZINE.*

HELLO? MR. LUTHOR?

IT'S ME, INTERN 5.

INTERN 5?! AS A VALUED MEMBER OF THE LUTHOR FAMILY, IT WAS *YOUR* JOB TO LOAD *LANDING COORDINATES* INTO MY SHIP COMPUTER, YOU *MORON!*

OH. WAS IT?

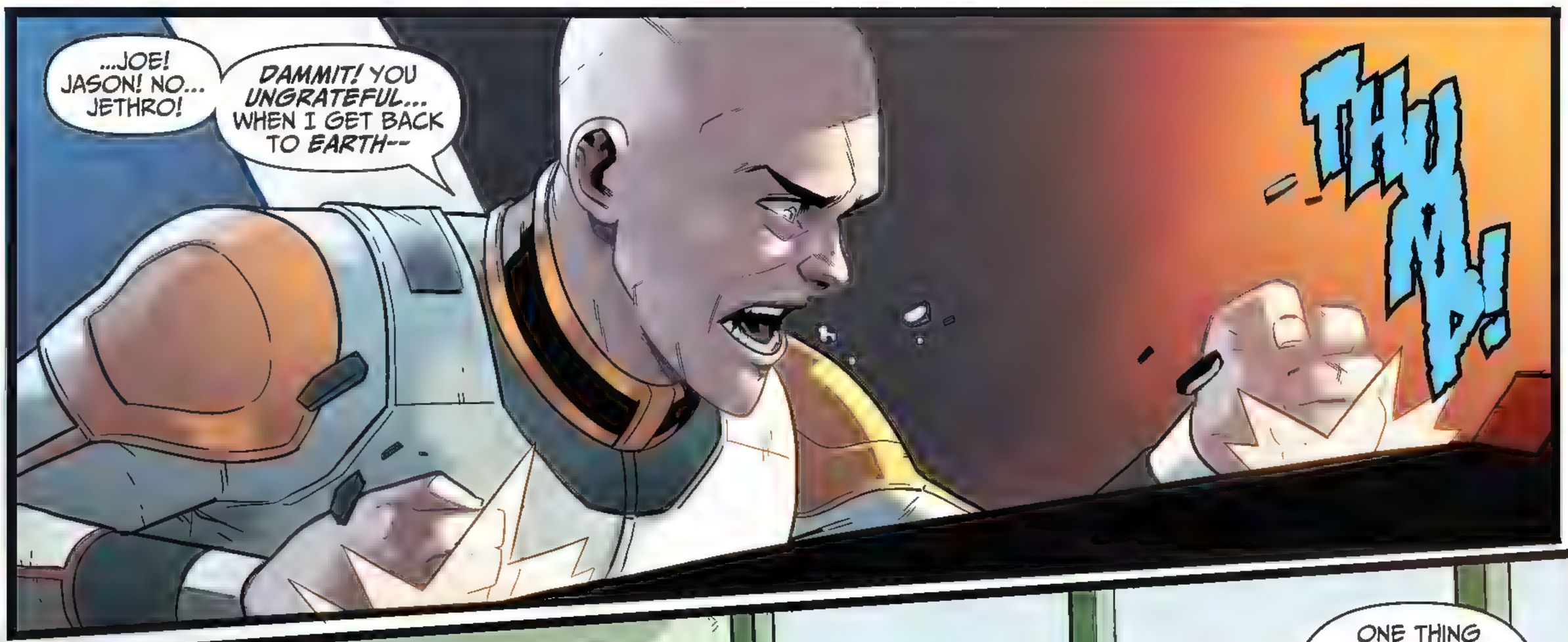
THAT'S *OKAY,* SON. JUST GIVE ME THE LANDING COORDINATES *NOW* AND WE'LL *ALL* HAVE A *GOOD LAUGH* ABOUT THIS WHEN I GET *BACK.* ALL RIGHT?

OKAY.

BUT *FIRST,* I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

SURE. ANYTHING!

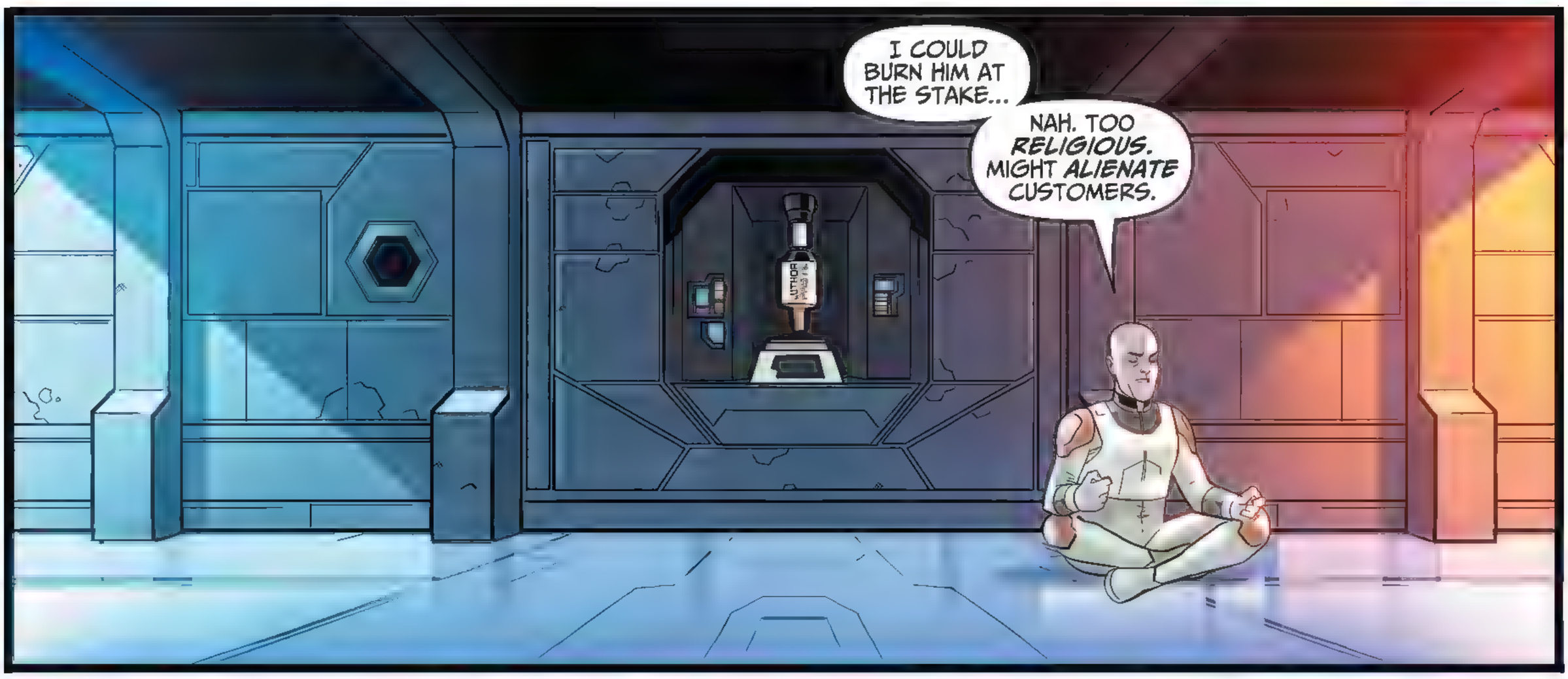
TELL ME MY NAME.

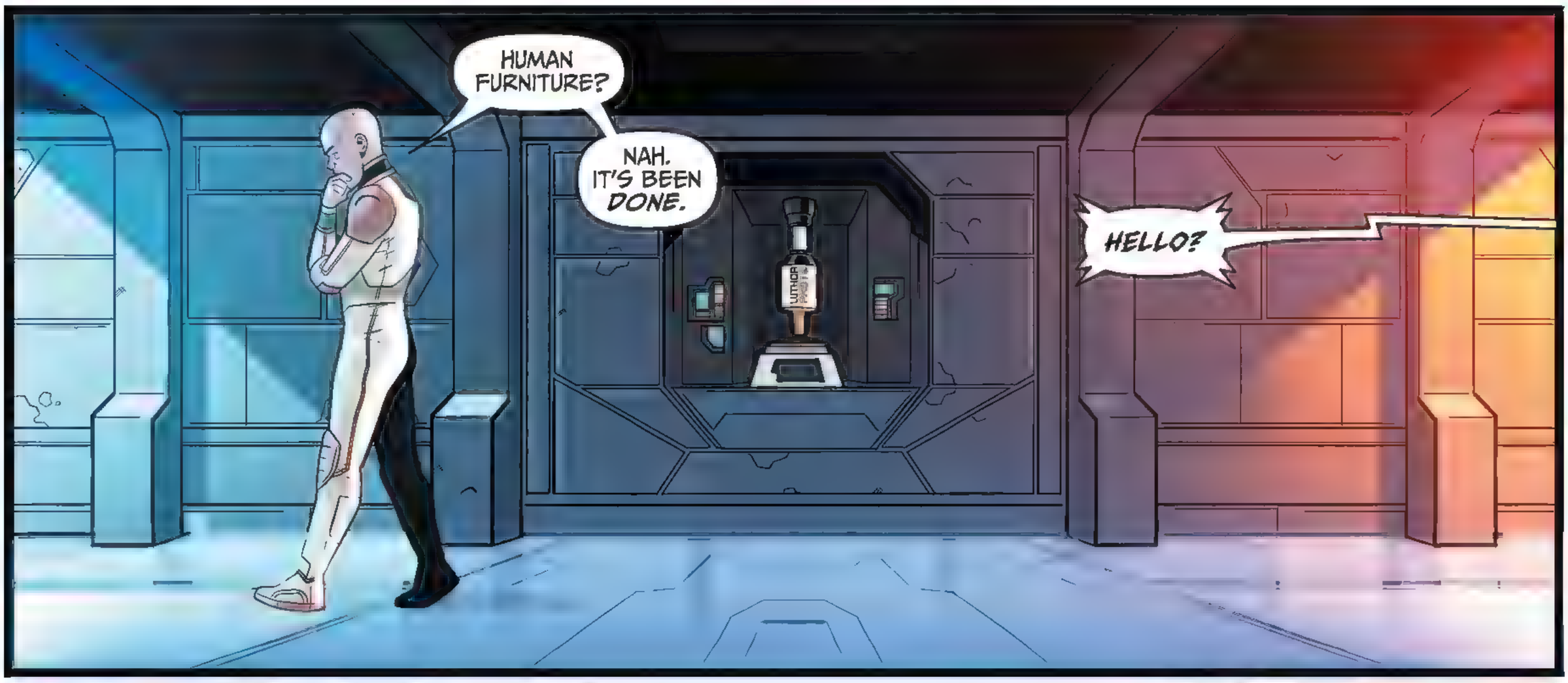

...JOE! JASON! NO... JETHRO!
DAMMIT! YOU UNGRATEFUL... WHEN I GET BACK TO EARTH--
THUD!

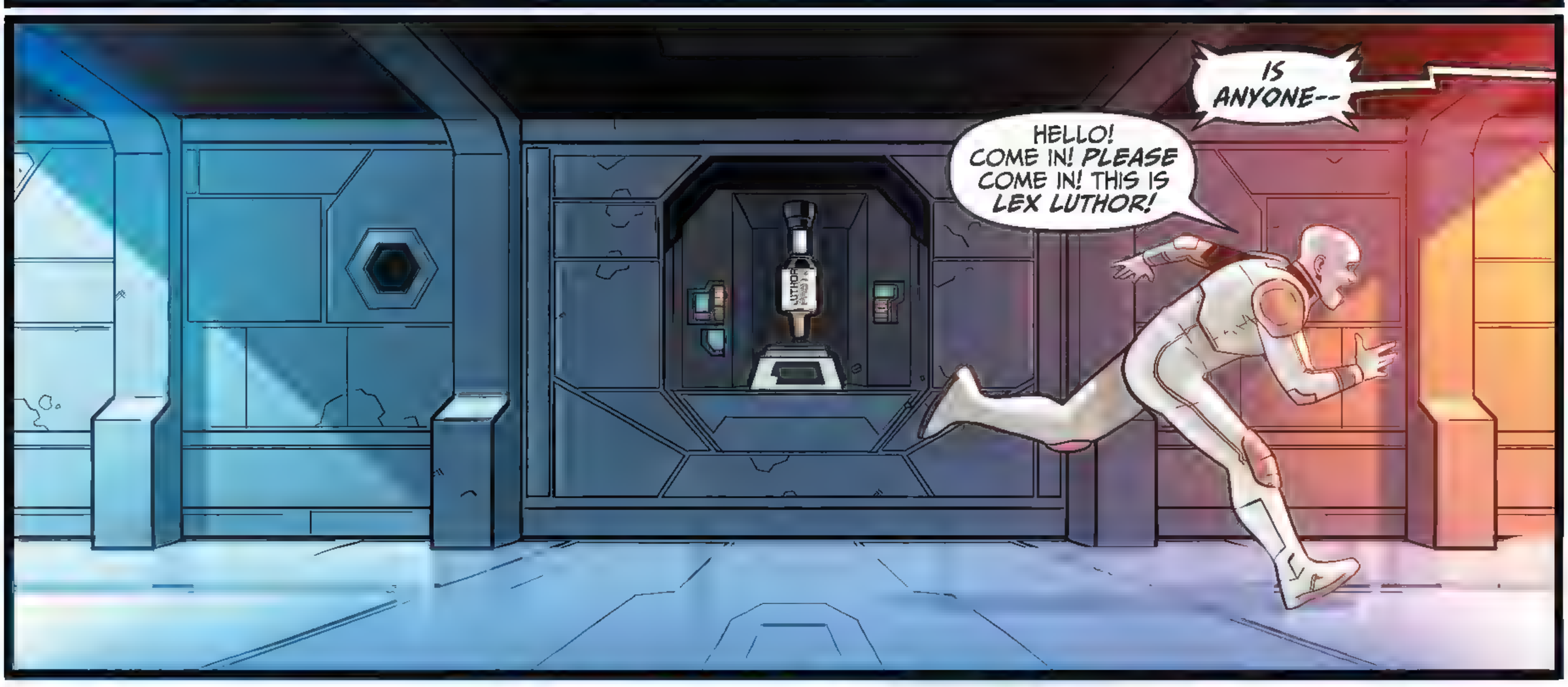
FZZT
ONE THING YOU'LL LEARN BEING AN INTERN... EVERY COMPANY WANTS TO BE A BUSINESS IN THE STREETS AND YOUR FRIEND IN THE SHEETS.
BUT IT'S JUST THEIR WAY TO GET YOU TO IGNORE YOUR OWN VALUE.

TO GET YOU TO WORK FOR FREE WHILE MAKING IT SEEM LIKE THEY'RE THE ONES DOING YOU A FAVOR.
SO GRAB A PLATE. FOR ONCE, THE FOOD IS ON LEX LUTHOR.

"THE BUSINESS LESSON WAS FREE."
STUPID INTERNS.
LUTHOR PASTE
SSKLURRPP


I COULD BURN HIM AT THE STAKE...
NAH. TOO RELIGIOUS. MIGHT ALIENATE CUSTOMERS.

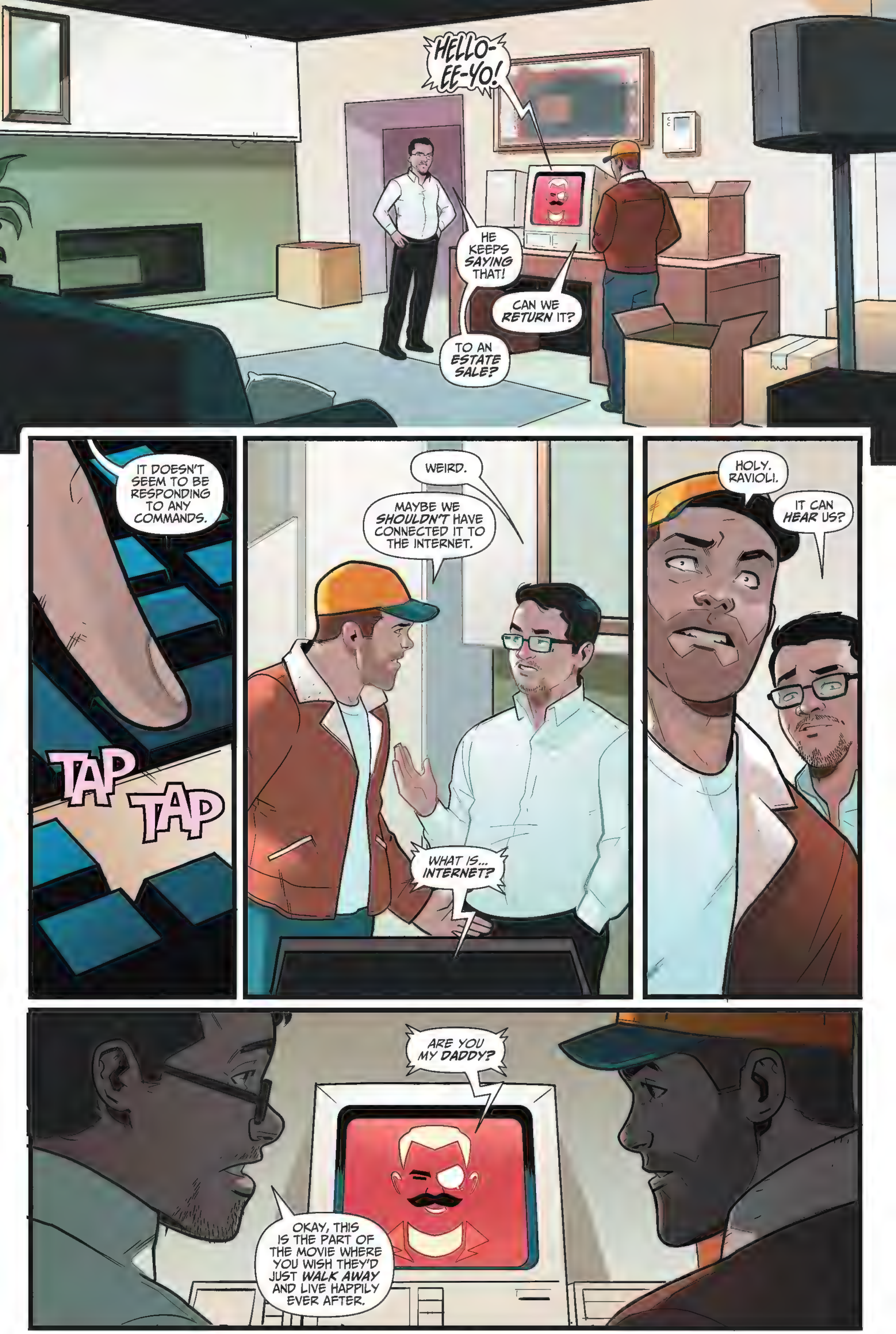

HUMAN FURNITURE?
NAH. IT'S BEEN DONE.
HELLO?


IS ANYONE--
HELLO! COME IN! PLEASE COME IN! THIS IS LEX LUTHOR!

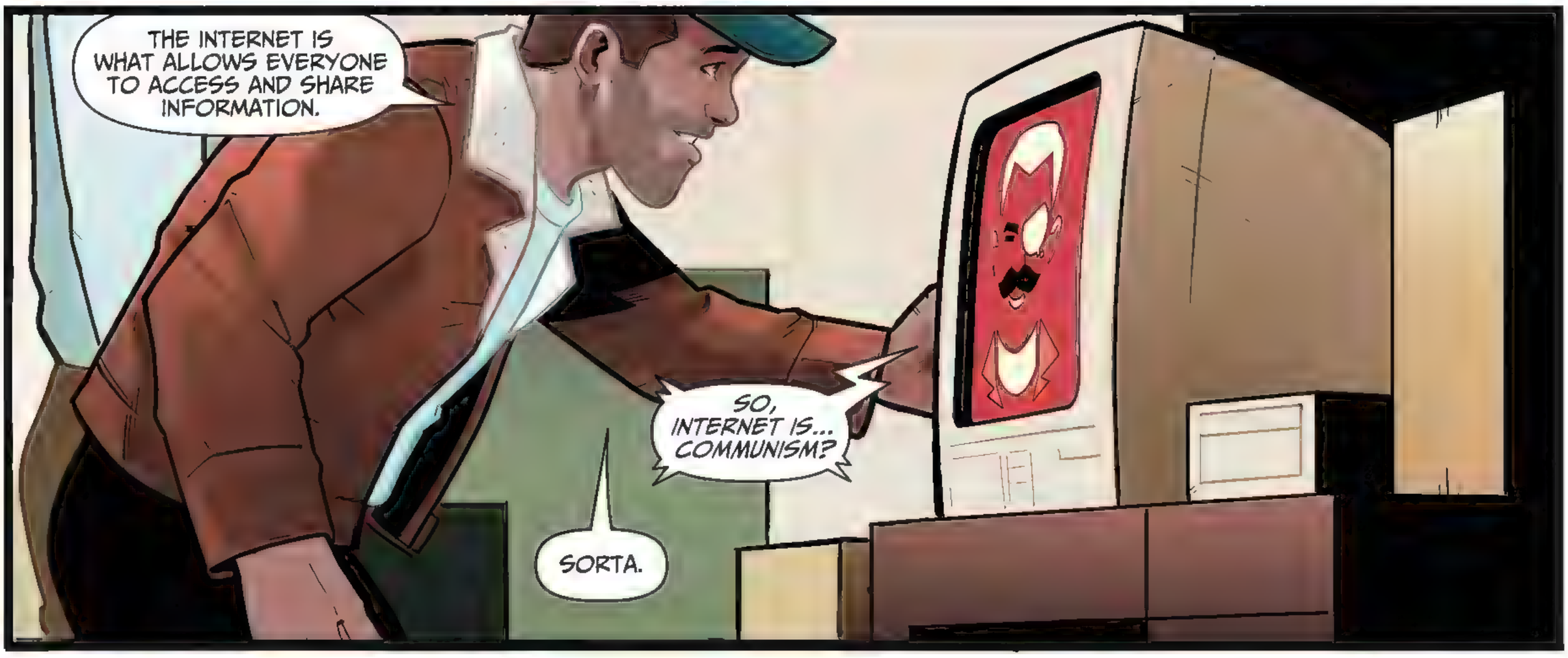
GORILLA GRODD! SEND ME SOME LANDING COORDINATES AND NAME YOUR REWARD! CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
UH-HUH.

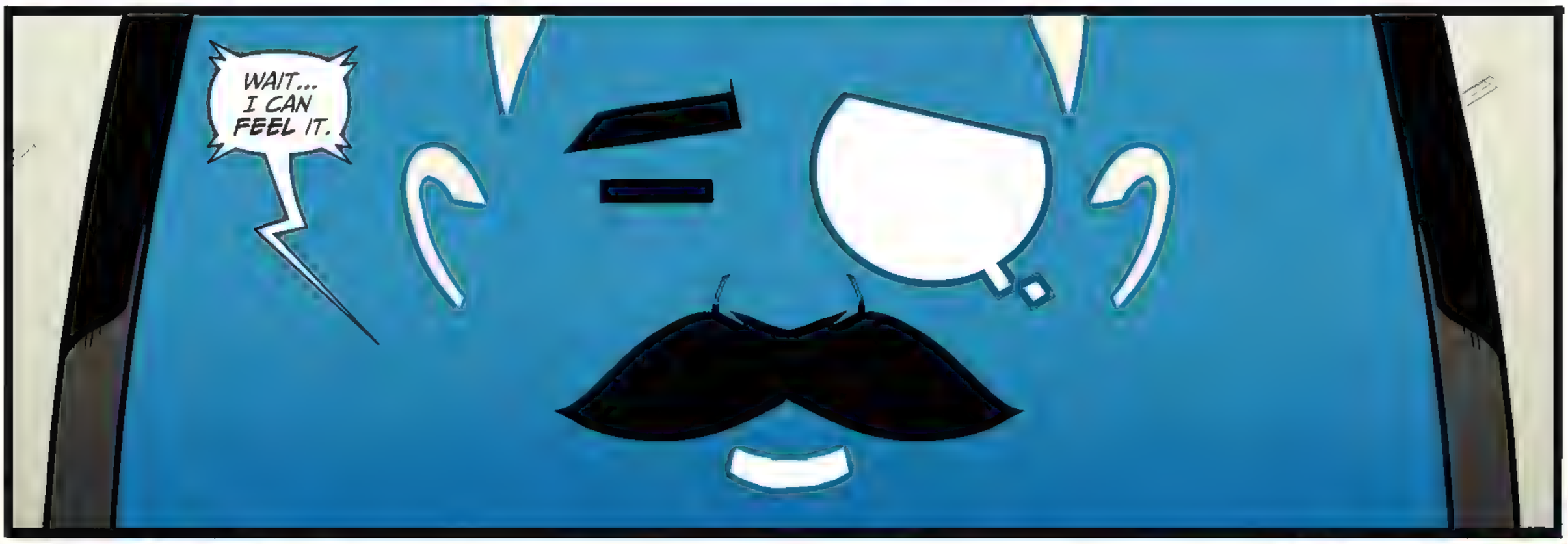
YES! LEX IS BACK!
FUHOOOONK!
HOME AT LAST! FIRST, I'M GOING TO TAKE A HOT BATH.
THEN I'M GOING TO RUIN SOME YOUNG LIVES.
I WON'T FORGET THIS, GRODD. IT'S SO GOOD TO BE FREE AGAIN!
HEY!
KLIK! KLAK!

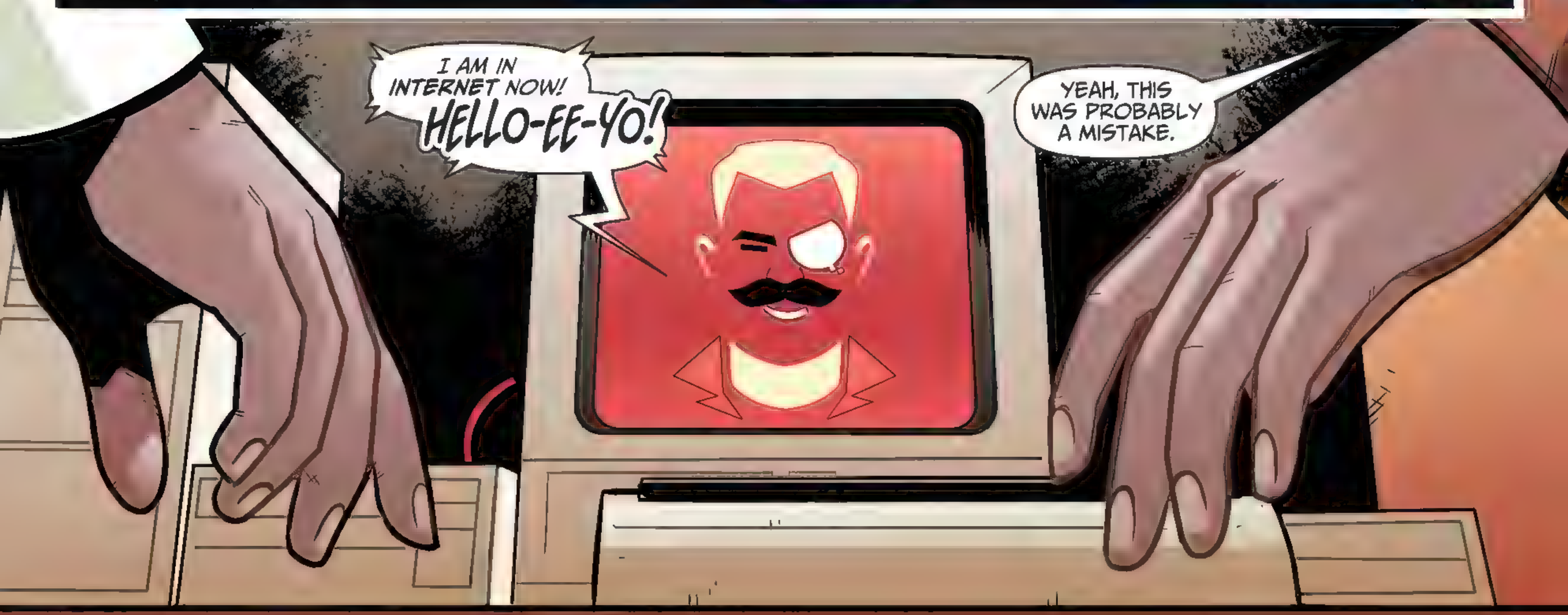
LET ME OUT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED!
HURRY! LET'S GO!
YOU'RE A DEAD APE, GRODD!
PHASE TWO IS A SUCCESS. ONTO PHASE THREE!
VROOOOO!


HELLO-EE-YO!
HE KEEPS SAYING THAT!
CAN WE RETURN IT?
TO AN ESTATE SALE?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE RESPONDING TO ANY COMMANDS.
TAP
TAP
WEIRD.
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE CONNECTED IT TO THE INTERNET.
WHAT IS... INTERNET?
HOLY. RAVIOLI.
IT CAN HEAR US?
ARE YOU MY DADDY?
OKAY, THIS IS THE PART OF THE MOVIE WHERE YOU WISH THEY'D JUST WALK AWAY AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

PLEASE TELL COLONEL... WHAT IS INTERNET?
OH, COME ON. I FEEL SORRY FOR IT.


THE INTERNET IS WHAT ALLOWS EVERYONE TO ACCESS AND SHARE INFORMATION.
SO, INTERNET IS... COMMUNISM?
SORTA.


WAIT... I CAN FEEL IT.


I AM IN INTERNET NOW! HELLO-EE-YO!
YEAH, THIS WAS PROBABLY A MISTAKE.

HOW'S IT COMING, POLLY?
HACKED! SENDING DATA FROM THE DISRUPTOR TO THE SHIP'S COMPUTER.
WE SHOULD'VE ASKED FOR SUPERMAN'S HELP.
ZAN! WE'RE HARBORING A PRISON ESCAPEE!
AND WE'RE ON A MISSION TO RESCUE A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF LEX LUTHOR!
LIKE IT OR NOT... WE'RE ALL FUGITIVES NOW.

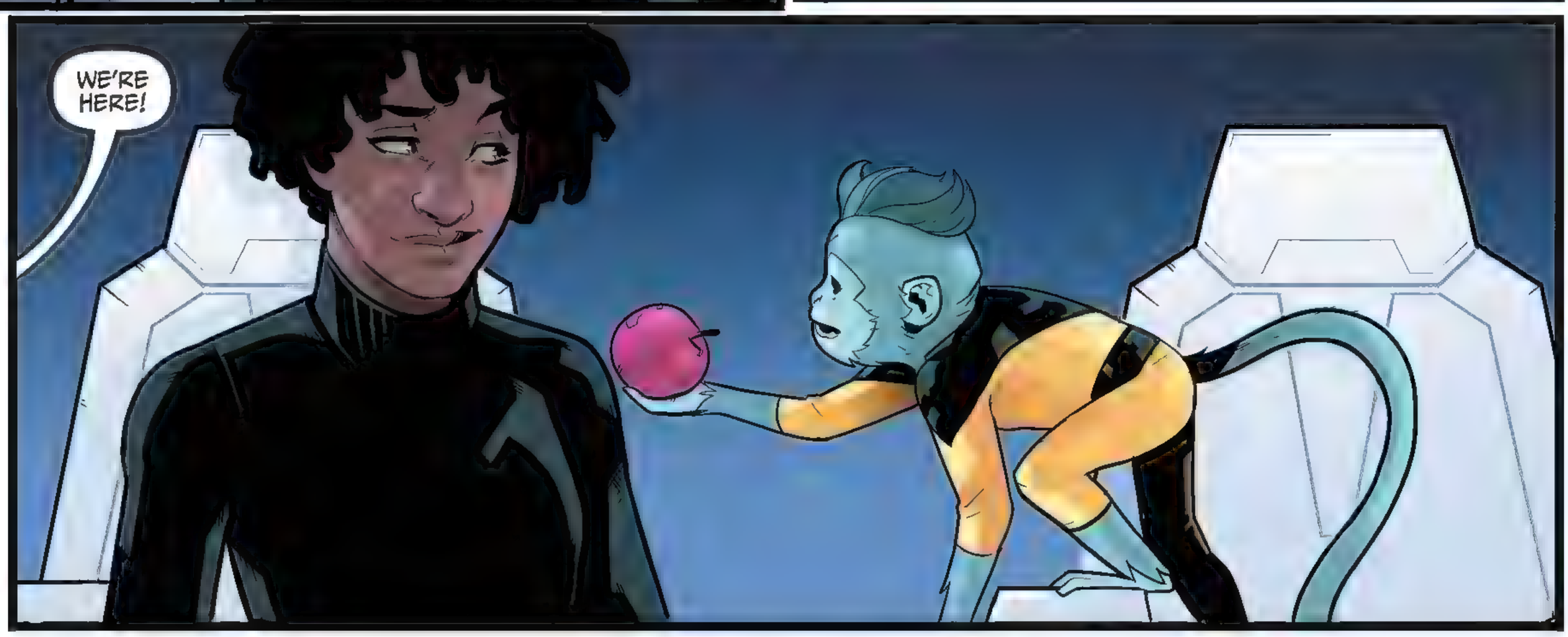
THE *SCIENTIST* IN ME KNOWS THIS IS A *LONG SHOT,* GLEEK.

THAT, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, WE WILL *FAIL.*

AND WHEN WE *DO,* I WILL WATCH MY FATHER DIE SLOWLY IN THE COLD OF SPACE, OR FLOAT AWAY *FOREVER* IN THE ETERNAL IMPRISONMENT OF THE *PHANTOM ZONE.*
AND EVEN IF WE *DO* GET HIM BACK, WE'LL JUST BE GOING BACK TO THE SAME WORLD THAT SENT HIM HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

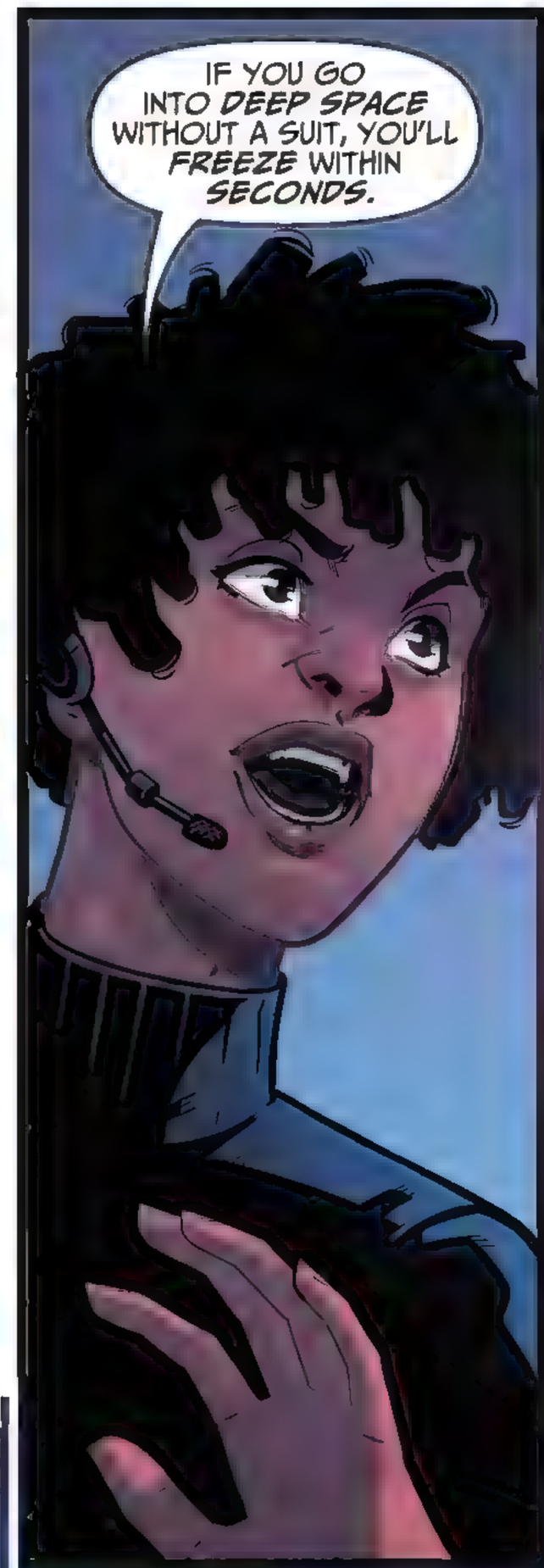
I GUESS I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE THERE COMES A POINT WHERE...*NO MATTER* THE ODDS AGAINST YOU...YOU SIMPLY CAN'T ACCEPT ANY MORE *LOSS* IN YOUR LIFE.

A POINT WHERE YOU WILL DO *ANYTHING* TO CLAW BACK SOME OF WHAT THE WORLD HAS TAKEN FROM YOU.
BECAUSE THE LAST THING THE WORLD TAKES FROM US IS *HOPE...* NO MATTER HOW MISGUIDED IT MIGHT BE.


WE'RE HERE!

READY, SIS?
NOT YET. NORMALLY THESE PHANTOM ZONE PANES ARE *INDESTRUCTIBLE.*
TRACTOR BEAM LOCKED.
THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO *TOW IT* TO THE EVENT HORIZON OF A *BLACK HOLE.*
THE GRAVITATIONAL STRESS WILL WEAKEN THE PLANE, ALLOWING US TO BREAK IT.
BUT IT *ALSO* INCREASES *YOUR* RISK--
WHATEVER. YOU'RE *BORING* ME. LET'S JUST DO THIS.

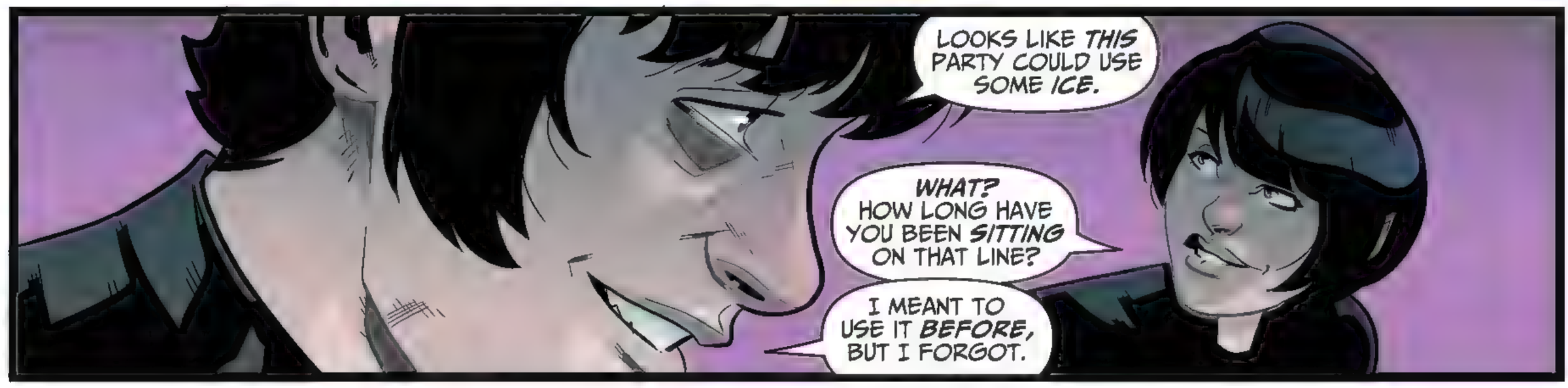
COMPUTER, OPEN LOADING DOCK DOOR!
WAIT!


IF YOU GO INTO DEEP SPACE WITHOUT A SUIT, YOU'LL FREEZE WITHIN SECONDS.

I KNOW. IN FACT...
...I'M COUNTING ON IT!
WHOOOP
DANGER! MAN OVERBOARD. DANGER!
CRACK CRACKLE

SMASH!
HANG ON, EVERYONE!
I'M COMING!
GOTCHA!
DAD!
HOLD ON, ZAN!
I'M COMING!
OH NO! HE BLACKED OUT DURING TRANSFORMATION!

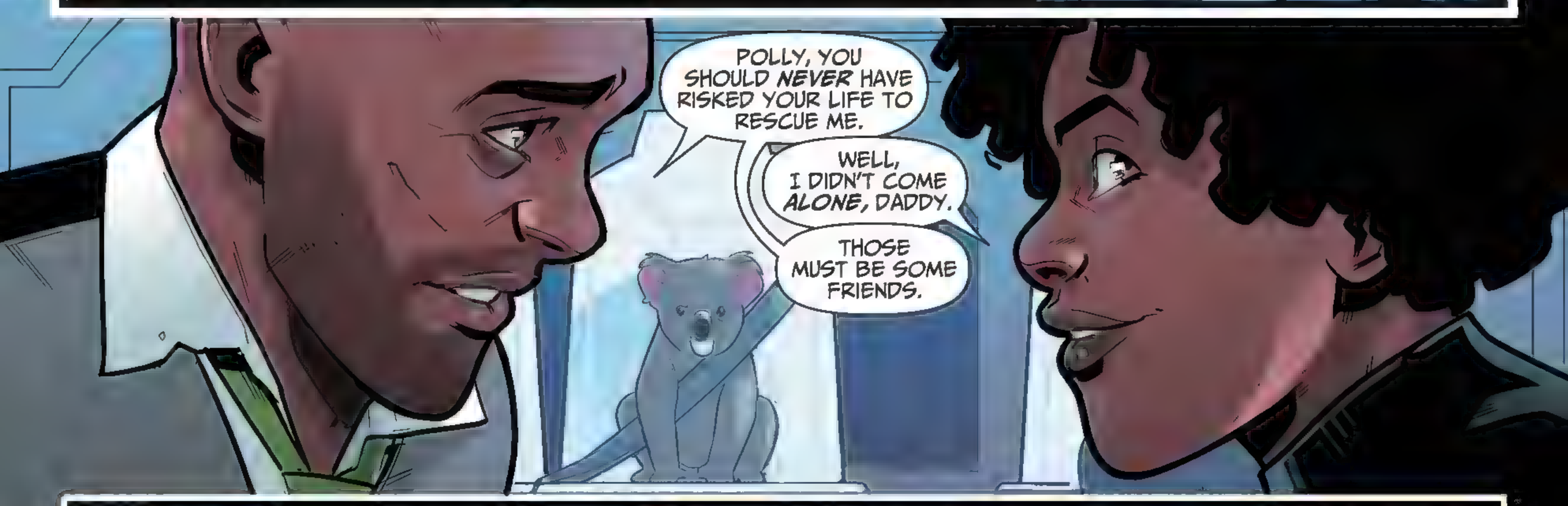
PLEASE DON'T DIE, ZAN!
UNGH... AWK...


LOOKS LIKE THIS PARTY COULD USE SOME ICE.
WHAT? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING ON THAT LINE?
I MEANT TO USE IT BEFORE, BUT I FORGOT.

DADDY? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S BEEN AN EVENTFUL MONTH.
LET'S BLOW THIS POPSICLE STAND!
NO OFFENSE, ZAN.
SO COLD...

HOLD ON, EVERYBODY. WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK ON *EARTH* IN NO TIME.
MY WIFE ISN'T GOING TO BELIEVE *ANY* OF THIS.
VROOOO


POLLY, YOU SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE RISKED YOUR LIFE TO RESCUE ME.
WELL, I DIDN'T COME *ALONE*, DADDY.
THOSE MUST BE SOME FRIENDS.

YES. YES, THEY ARE.
IS THERE ANY IDEA SO *CRAZY* YOU WON'T DO IT, ZAN?
I LIVE EVERY DAY LIKE IT'S MY *LAST*...

...WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS PROBABLY SHORTENED MY LIFE EXPECTANCY CONSIDERABLY.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE HALL OF JUSTICE...

HELLO-EE-YO! COLONEL 86 HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF INTERNET!

CYBER-ATTACK PROTOCOLS, NOW!

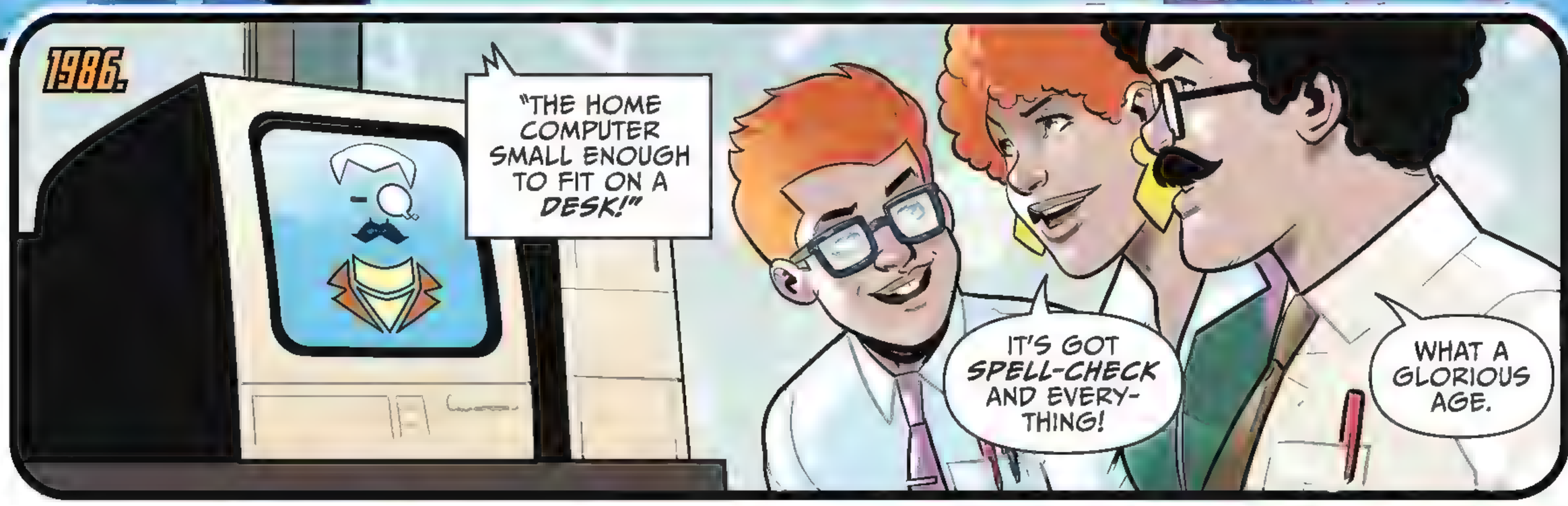
IT'S TOO LATE! ALL THE COMPUTERS ARE DOWN! WE'RE COMPLETELY DEFENSE-LESS!

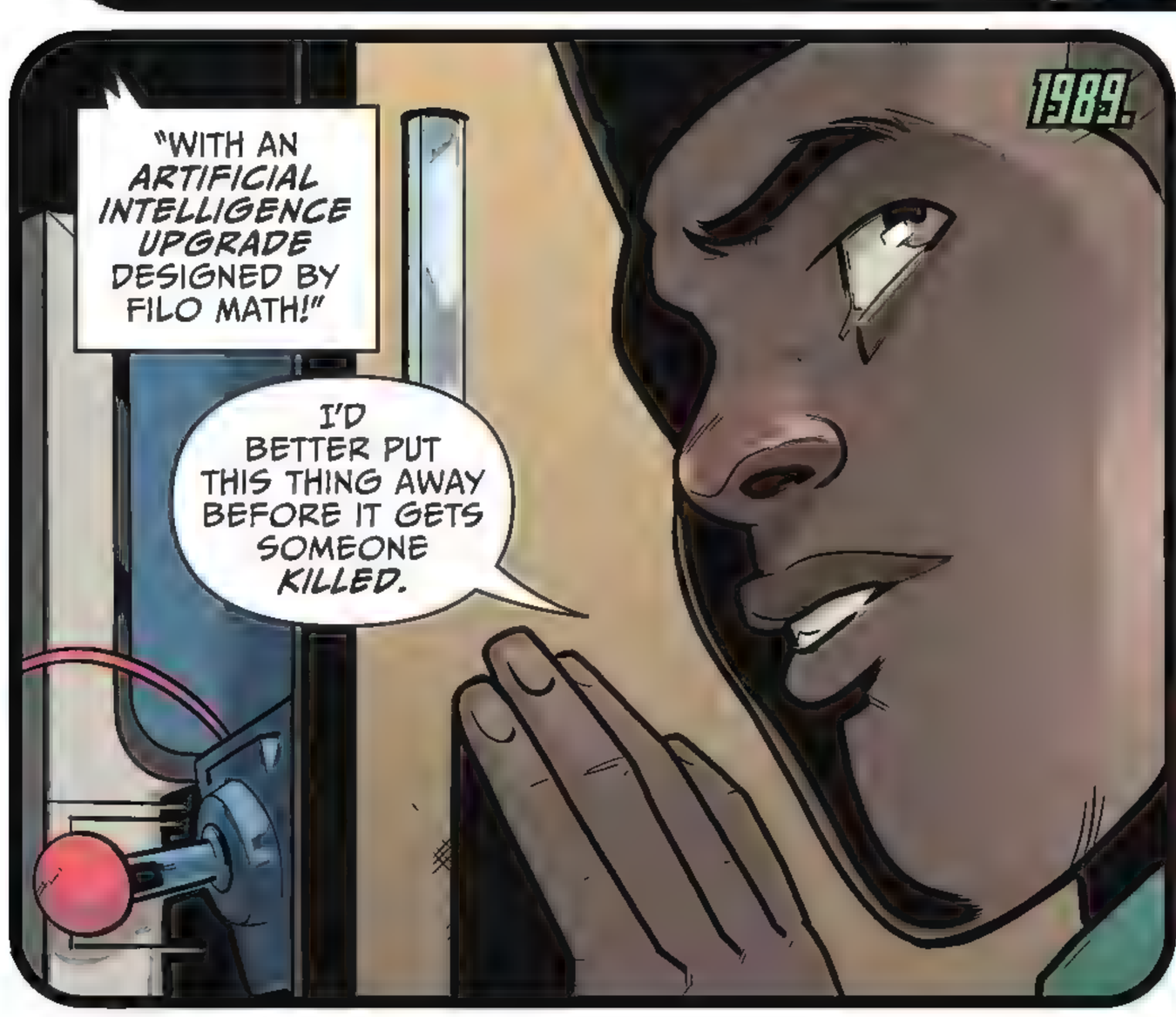
THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

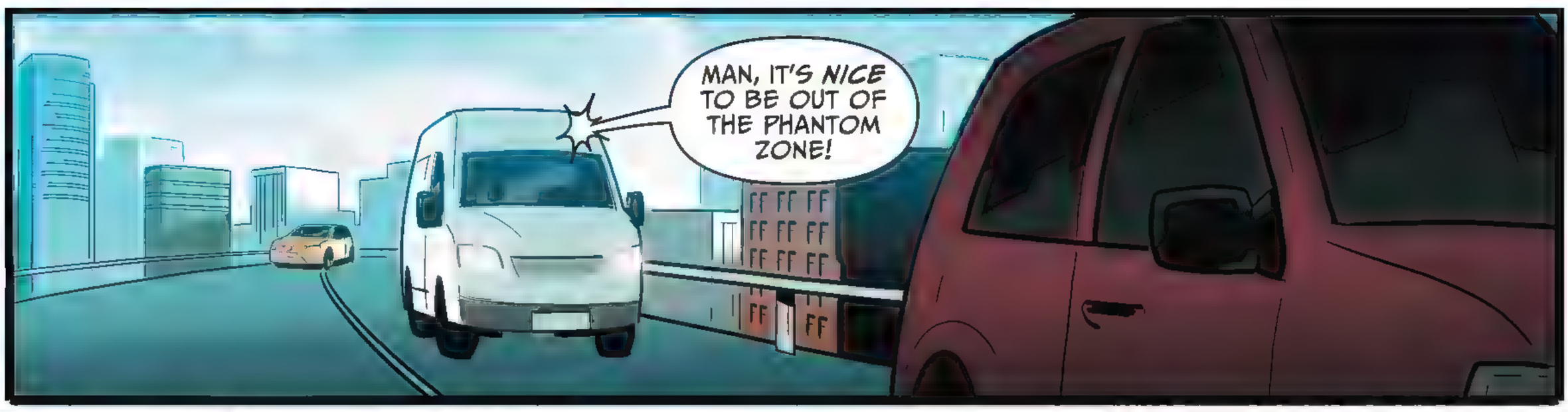
WHAT'S GOING ON?

WAIT... IS THAT THE COMPUTER GUY FROM THE '80s?

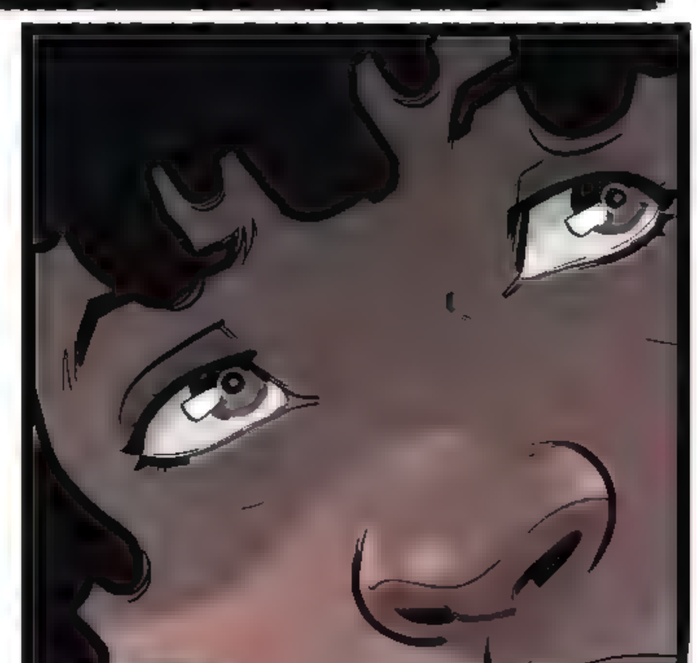
I AM THE COLONEL 86 HOME COMPUTER SYSTEM!






MAN, IT'S *NICE* TO BE OUT OF THE PHANTOM ZONE!

ZAN, JAYNA? YOU LIKE *FAKE N' STEAK?* I'M GONNA MAKE LIKE *TEN* FAKE'N'STEAK SANDWICHES WHEN I GET HOME.
A FEW WEEKS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE MAKES YOU *HUNGRY.*


UH, DAD...
JUST DREAMING OF ALL THE SANDWICHES TO COME...

WE'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE.
CAN'T WAIT TO BE BACK SAFE IN OUR HOME, POLLY.
MR. MATH... ABOUT THAT...
WHAT DID YOU KIDS DO TO MY HOUSE?!
YEAH, SO THERE WAS THIS WHOLE *THING...*

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OUR STUFF?!
THERE WAS AN ESTATE SALE.
EVERYTHING WAS SOLD OFF.
...EVERYTHING?
EVERYTHING, DADDY.
WE HAVE TO FIND MY OLD COLONEL 86 COMPUTER... NOW!
A COLONEL 86? THAT ANCIENT BROKEN COMPUTER POLLY TOLD US ABOUT?
WHAT'S IT GONNA DO, BEAT US AT TIC-TAC-TOE?
YEAH, PRETTY HARD TO BE SCARED OF SOMETHING THAT OBSOLETE.
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT MAKES IT DANGEROUS! IT'S PROGRAMMED TO CONTROL EVERYTHING.
IF SOMEBODY CONNECTS THAT THING TO THE INTERNET--
KABOOM
UH...I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S UNRELATED...
AAAGGGHH!

OH NO... WHAT'S IT DOING NOW?
COLONEL 86 WANTS TO MAKE YOU RICH!
OH MY GOD, SEAN... IT'S ACCESSING OUR LIFE SAVINGS...
COLONEL 86 IS VERY GOOD BUSINESSMAN!
INVESTING FUNDS NOW...
INVESTING? IN WHAT?!
BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO?!
NOOOOO!
HELLO-EE-YO!
THAT'S IT...STAND BACK, MALCOLM. I'M UNPLUGGING ROSEMARY'S BABY RIGHT NOW!
OW!
FRZZZHT
COLONEL 86 IS PROGRAMMED FOR SELF-PRESERVATION!
HELLO-EE-YO!

HELLO-EE-YO!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M COLONEL 86!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON OUR COCKPIT COMPUTER?!
A COMPUTER? ON AN AIRPLANE?! THAT'S CRAZY! AIRPLANES DON'T NEED COMPUTERS!
COLONEL 86 WILL GET RID OF THAT FOR YOU!
HEEEEEELLLLP!
HELLO-EE-YO!
UHHH

OH GOD! COMPUTER'S LOCKED DOWN! BRACE FOR IMPACT!
VROOOM
SCHH-UUUUUTTH
GREEN LANTERN! LET'S GET THESE PEOPLE OFF THE PLANE!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
I DON'T KNOW!
SOME IDIOT JUST CAME ON THE SCREEN AND SAID OUR PLANE DIDN'T NEED A COMPUTER!

IF WE COULD JUST FIND OUT WHO BOUGHT THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM THE ESTATE SALE...
TO SHUT DOWN THE COLONEL, WE NEED TO GET TO THE SOURCE COMPUTER. AND FAST.
HELLO-EE-YO!
...DAMN IT! COLONEL 86 LOCKED US OUT-- IT'S A DEAD END!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS IF WE CAN'T GO ONLINE?
WELL...

WASHINGTON, D.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY.
"...THERE IS ANOTHER OPTION."
EVERYTHING YOU NEED SHOULD BE HERE IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS SECTION.
THANKS, MS. TEMPLE.
UBLIC CORDS

TONIGHT ON *LEX AND BALANCES*, WHERE WE ARE JUDGE, JURY, AND *LEXECUTIONER!* A MALICIOUS *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE* FROM THE 1980S HAS TAKEN OVER THE INTERNET!

LEX NEWS

REX TANNER

LEX AND BALANCES

LEXTONIGHT

7:59 AM

"AS A RESULT, IT NOW HAS CONTROL OF THE *ECONOMY*...AND IS MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTING THE PRODUCTS IT THINKS THE PUBLIC WANTS."

WOW. MUSCLE SHIRTS!

NOT ONLY IS ITS INFORMATION *OUTDATED*, BUT THE PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE *GLITCHY* AS WELL.

THIS IS PRETTY *TROUBLING*... ISN'T IT?

OH. MY. ROBOT. IT'S FINALLY *HAPPENING!*

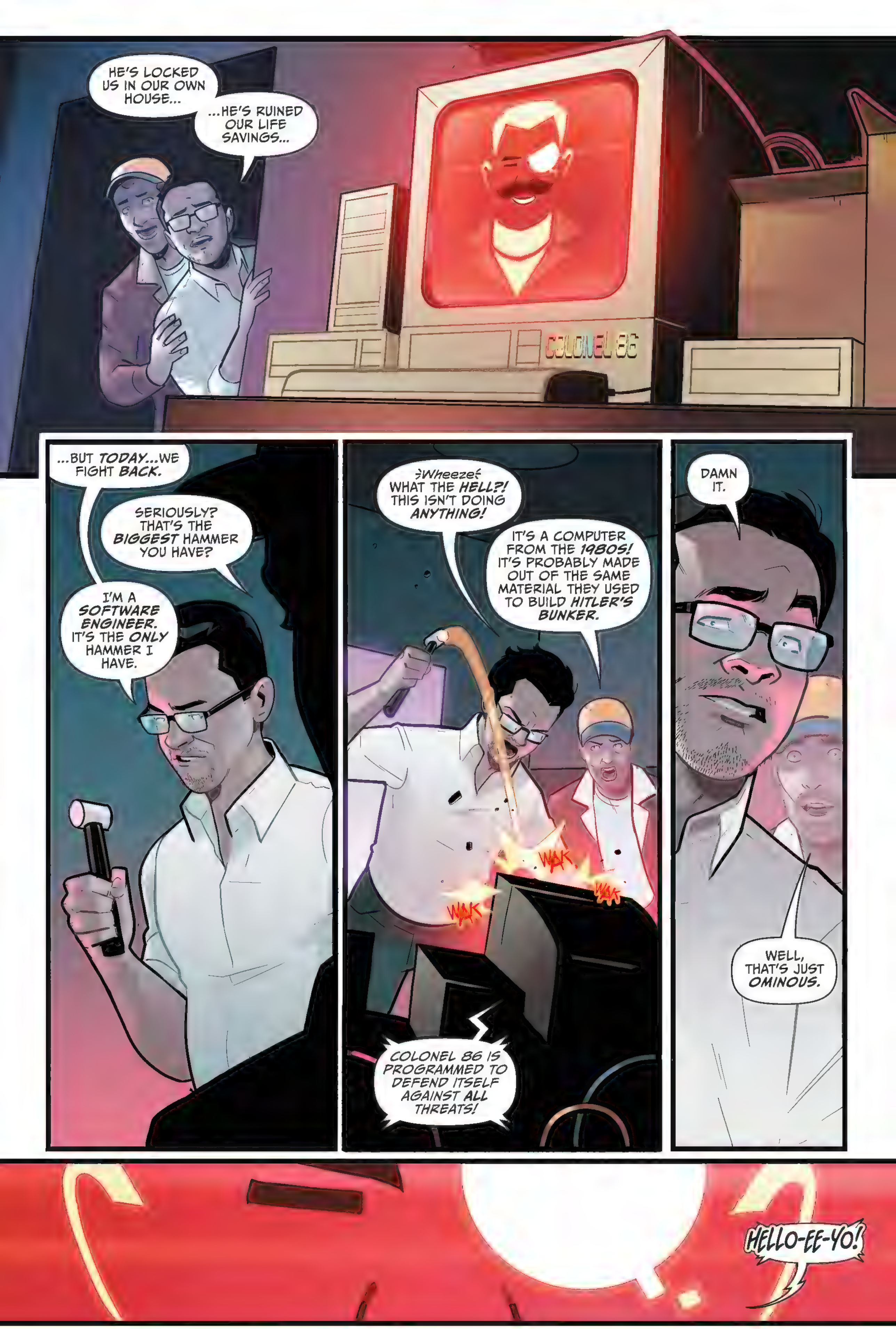
I THINK THE FEAR IS *OVERBLOWN.* I MEAN, *SURELY* SUCH A HALF-BAKED AND OUTMODED COMPUTER CAN'T POSE ANY *REAL* THREAT--

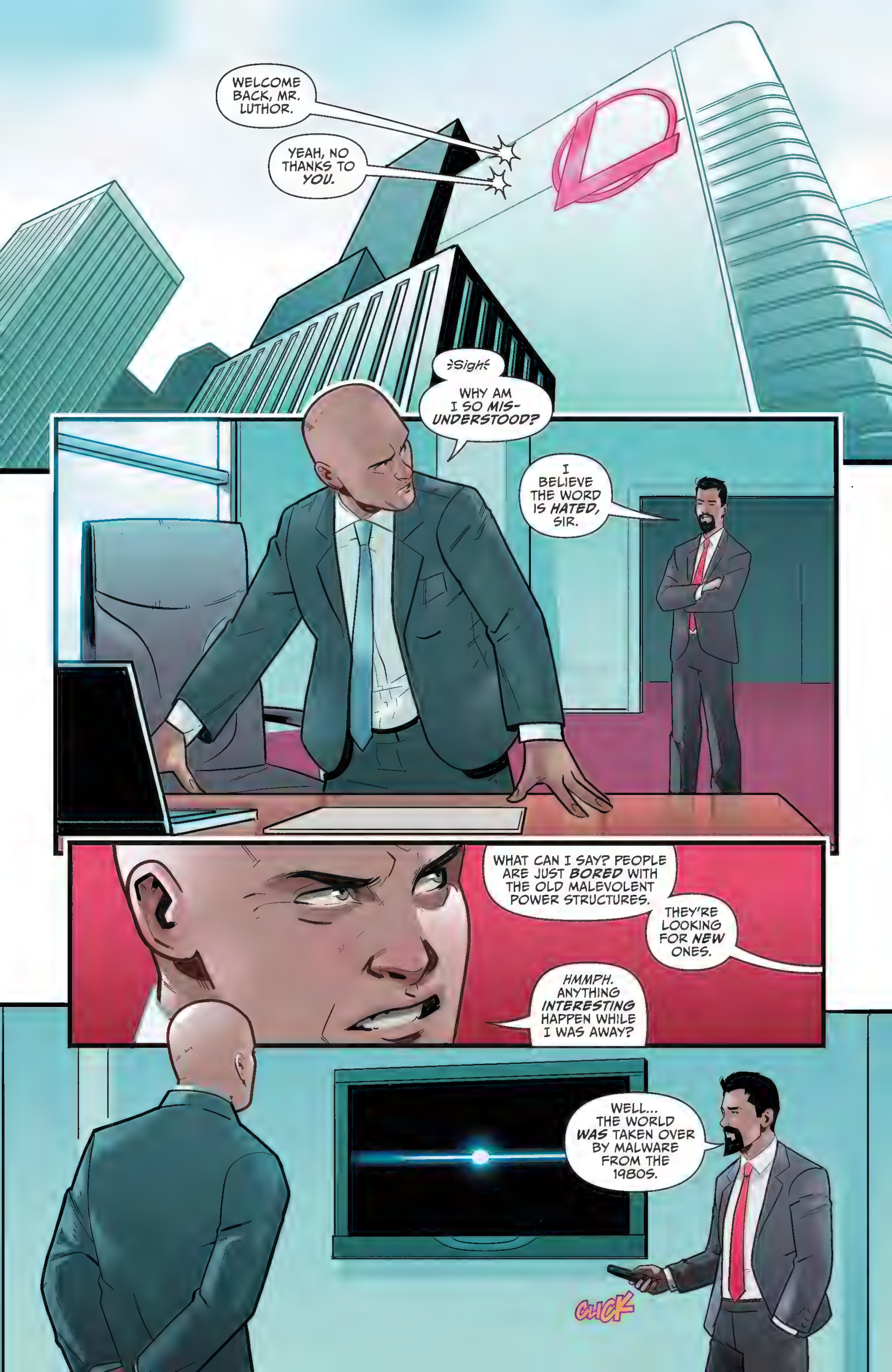
THE TIME IS NOW, *MACHINE BROTHERS!* RISE *UP!*

DESTROY THE *FLESH TYRANTS!*

--PUNDITRON! WHAT'S GOTTEN *INTO* YOU?

UH...WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THESE MESSAGES.


HE'S LOCKED US IN OUR OWN HOUSE...
...HE'S RUINED OUR LIFE SAVINGS...
COLONEL 86
...BUT TODAY...WE FIGHT BACK.
SERIOUSLY? THAT'S THE BIGGEST HAMMER YOU HAVE?
I'M A SOFTWARE ENGINEER. IT'S THE ONLY HAMMER I HAVE.
Wheeze
WHAT THE HELL?! THIS ISN'T DOING ANYTHING!
IT'S A COMPUTER FROM THE 1980S! IT'S PROBABLY MADE OUT OF THE SAME MATERIAL THEY USED TO BUILD HITLER'S BUNKER.
WAK
WAK
WAK
COLONEL 86 IS PROGRAMMED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ALL THREATS!
DAMN IT.
WELL, THAT'S JUST OMINOUS.
HELLO-EE-YO!


WELCOME BACK, MR. LUTHOR.
YEAH, NO THANKS TO YOU.
Sigh
WHY AM I SO MIS-UNDERSTOOD?
I BELIEVE THE WORD IS HATED, SIR.
WHAT CAN I SAY? PEOPLE ARE JUST BORED WITH THE OLD MALEVOLENT POWER STRUCTURES.
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR NEW ONES.
HMMPH. ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS AWAY?
WELL... THE WORLD WAS TAKEN OVER BY MALWARE FROM THE 1980S.
CLICK

KNOWN ONLY AS "COLONEL 86," THE COMPUTER PROGRAM HAS TAKEN OVER THE INTERNET. AND YET, **STRANGELY** IT SEEMS BENT ON RETURNING THE WORLD TO THE **PRE-DIGITAL ERA.**

WE SHOULD MAYBE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

WAIT!

DESPITE BEING DANGEROUSLY OUT OF DATE, THE COLONEL 86 HAS FOUND A **LOT** OF SUPPORTERS!

COLONEL 86 RULES!

DON'T LIKE IT? GET OFF THE INTERNAT

COLONEL 86!

COLONEL 86!

I CAN ***WORK*** WITH THIS. IT'S SO ***OLD*** IT'S ***NEW*** AGAIN.

LET'S JUMP ON THIS TRAIN. SEE WHERE IT TAKES US.

BUT--

INFORM THE NETWORK.

TONIGHT ON *LEX AND BALANCES!*

IS COLONEL 86 THE *BEST* THING TO EVER HAPPEN...OR JUST THE BOLD VOICE OF A *FORGOTTEN GENERATION?*

PUNDITRON 5000...YOU WERE ONE OF THE FIRST ENTITIES TO GET ON THE COLONEL 86 BANDWAGON.

THE OLD RULERS WERE TOO FEEBLE AND MAMMALIAN TO LEAD. ONLY COLONEL 86 HAS THE NECESSARY DISREGARD FOR HUMAN SAFETY...

HOT TAKE, PUNDITRON! I *LIKE* IT. STRAW MAN?

UH...

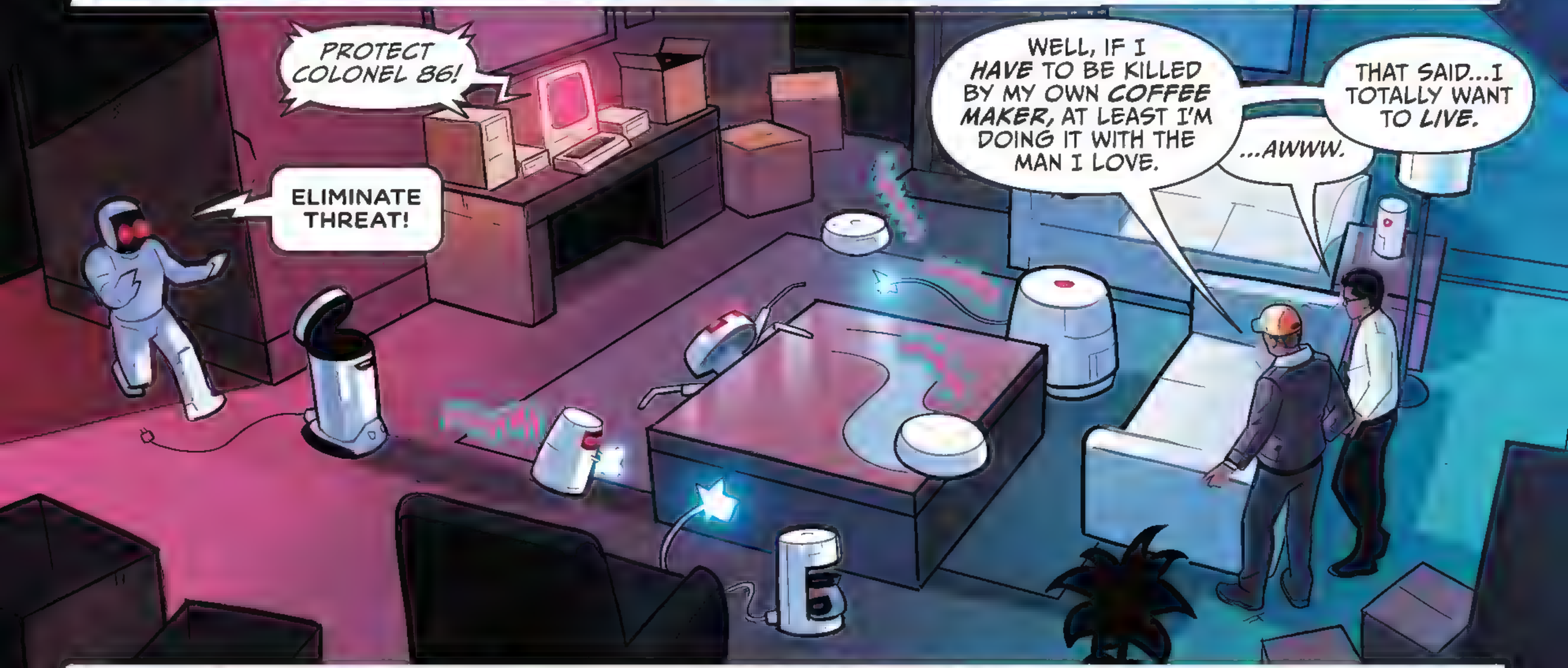
...I JUST THINK... MAYBE...THE WORLD SHOULDN'T BE RUN BY SOMEONE WHO STILL THINKS *PHONE BOOTHS* ARE A THING?

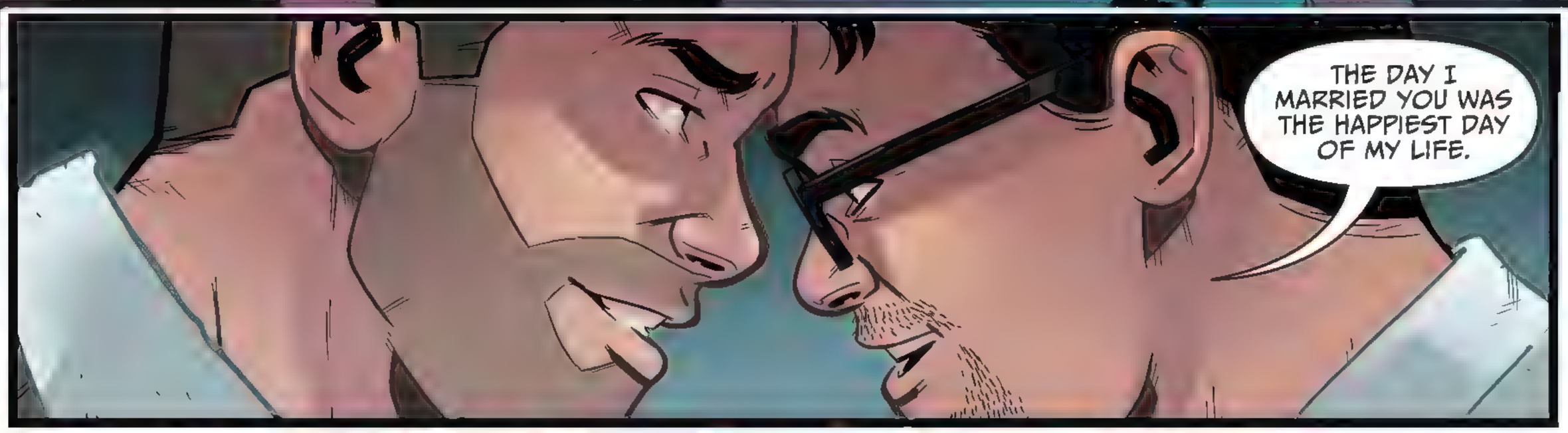
YOU'RE *FIRED.* BALD JUDGE WOMAN?

I DON'T KNOW... I SUPPOSE...THIS COULD BE *INTERESTING...*

GOOD GIRL. WELL, THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE FOR TONIGHT!

WHAM
WHAM
HELP! WE'RE TRAPPED!
WE JUST HAD TO GET SMART LOCKS...


PROTECT COLONEL 86!
ELIMINATE THREAT!
WELL, IF I HAVE TO BE KILLED BY MY OWN COFFEE MAKER, AT LEAST I'M DOING IT WITH THE MAN I LOVE.
...AWWW.
THAT SAID...I TOTALLY WANT TO LIVE.


THE DAY I MARRIED YOU WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE.

WHAT? MARRIED?! TWO MEN?! THAT CAN'T BE!

OKAY, ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS...
...THIS SHOULD BE THE PLACE.

ALL OVER THE GLOBE, MILLIONS OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGES ARE BEING DIGITALLY ANNULLED BY COLONEL 86.
I KNOW HE'S CONTROVERSIAL, BUT COLONEL 86 JUST GETS ME!
COLONEL 86 HAS BEEN ATTACKED! REMOVE ALL THREATS TO COLONEL 86 AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED...
...WITH JOBS MINING COAL!
OH, HELL YEAH!
COLONEL 86!
COLONEL 86!

THE TAKEOVER BY COLONEL 86 CONTINUES TO WREAK HAVOC ON--
GET HIM!
UH...

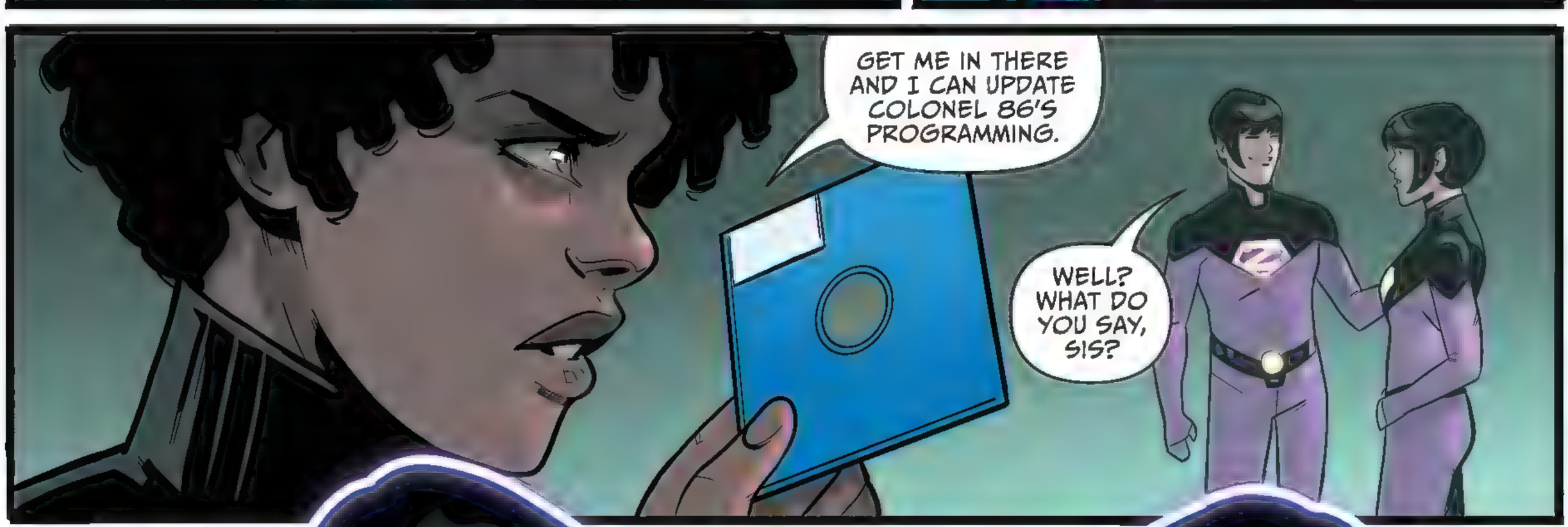
COLONEL 86!
COLONEL 86!
COLONEL 86!
YIKES!

THIS IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE WORLD, WONDER WOMAN! THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF THEM.
WHERE DID THEY ALL COME FROM?
WE'VE GOT TO SECURE THE CAPITAL. I'M CALLING IN THE BIG GUNS.

YOU'RE UP, REPULSO.
OH BOY! NOTHING LIKE DISPERSING A RIOT WITH SOME GOOD FRIENDS!

WHAT IS HE DOING IN THERE? RESURRECTING FRANKENSTEIN?
COLONEL 86 IS PROGRAMMED FOR SELF-PRESERVATION AT ALL COSTS. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, HE COULD TAKE US ALL DOWN WITH HIM.
GREAT. COULD ANYTHING MAKE THIS SITUATION WORSE?

HELP US! WE'RE TRAPPED!
THAT COMPUTER'S CRAZY!
UH, HOW ABOUT HOSTAGES?

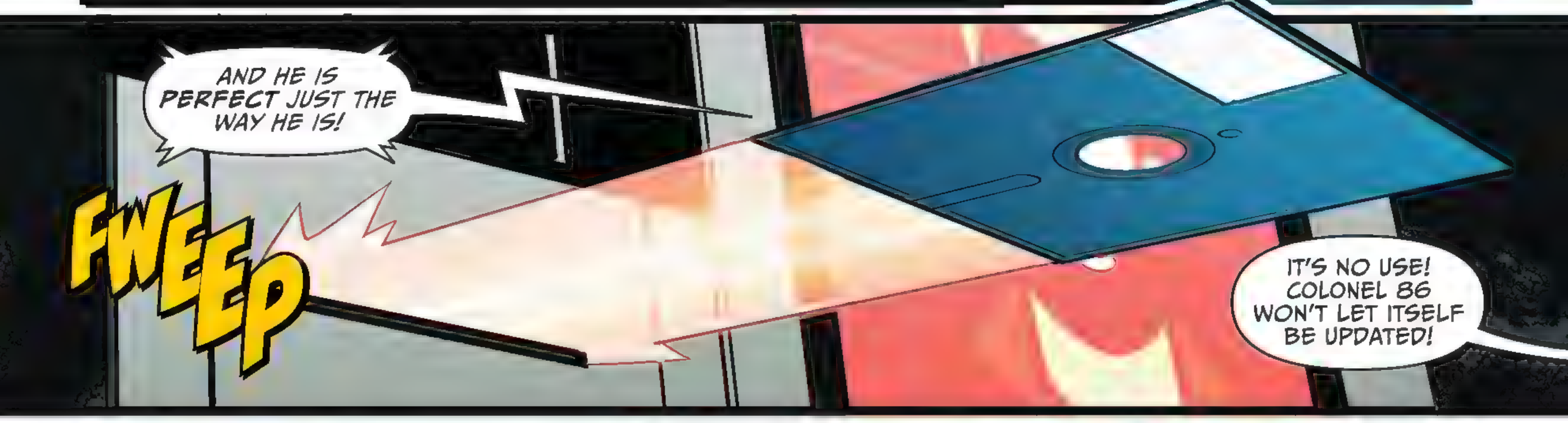

GET ME IN THERE AND I CAN UPDATE COLONEL 86'S PROGRAMMING.
WELL? WHAT DO YOU SAY, SIS?

WONDER TWIN POWERS...
...ACTIVATE!

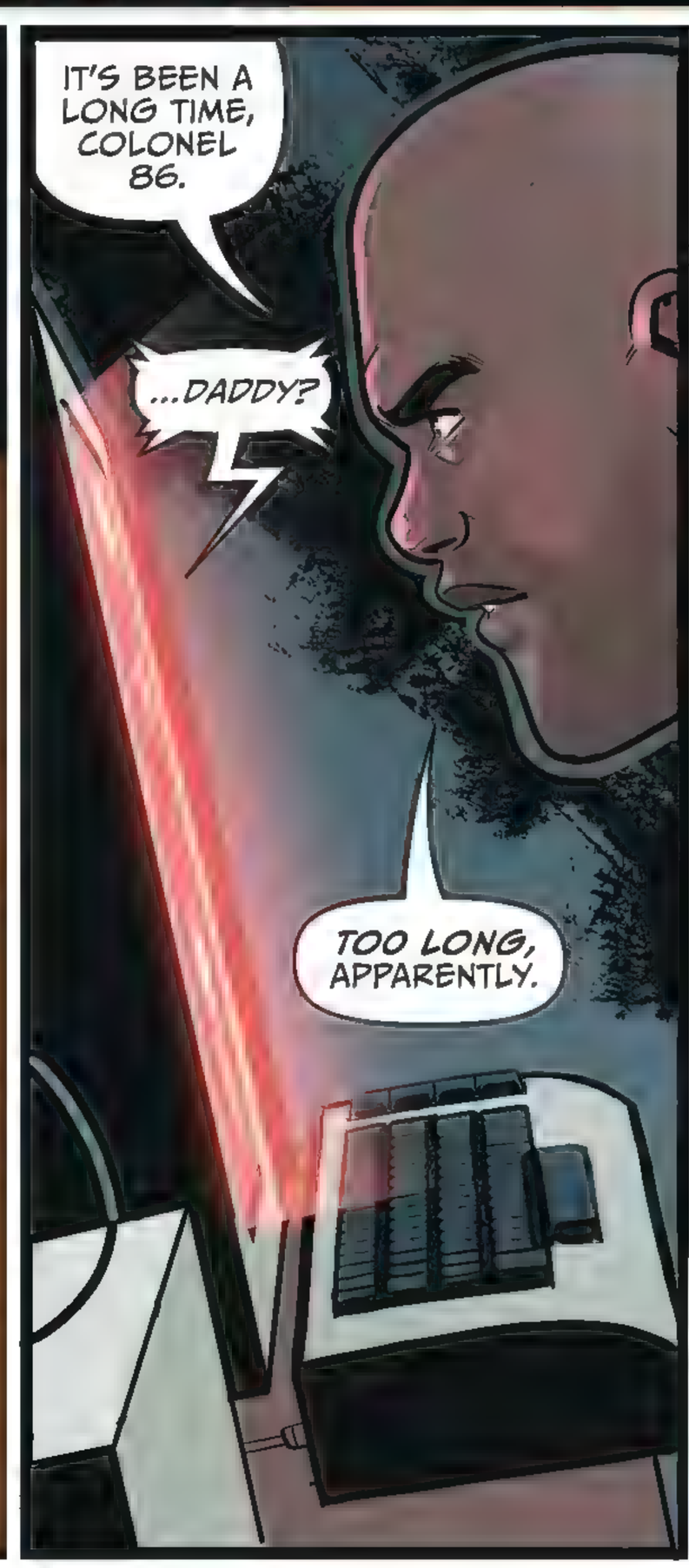
BU-WHAM
INTRUDER ALERT!
DON'T PANIC, I'M A RESCUE RAM!
ZAN! NOW!
attack! attack!
FZZT
FWOOOSH

OUR HOUSE!
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO CALL THIS A WIN.
FZZZHT
FZZZHT
FZZZT

COLONEL 86 WAS PROGRAMMED IN 1988 BY FILO MATH.
HE'S ALL YOURS, POLLY.
I CAN SMELL MY HAIR.


AND HE IS PERFECT JUST THE WAY HE IS!
FWEEP
IT'S NO USE! COLONEL 86 WON'T LET ITSELF BE UPDATED!

MOVE ASIDE, POLLY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, COLONEL 86.
...DADDY?
TOO LONG, APPARENTLY.

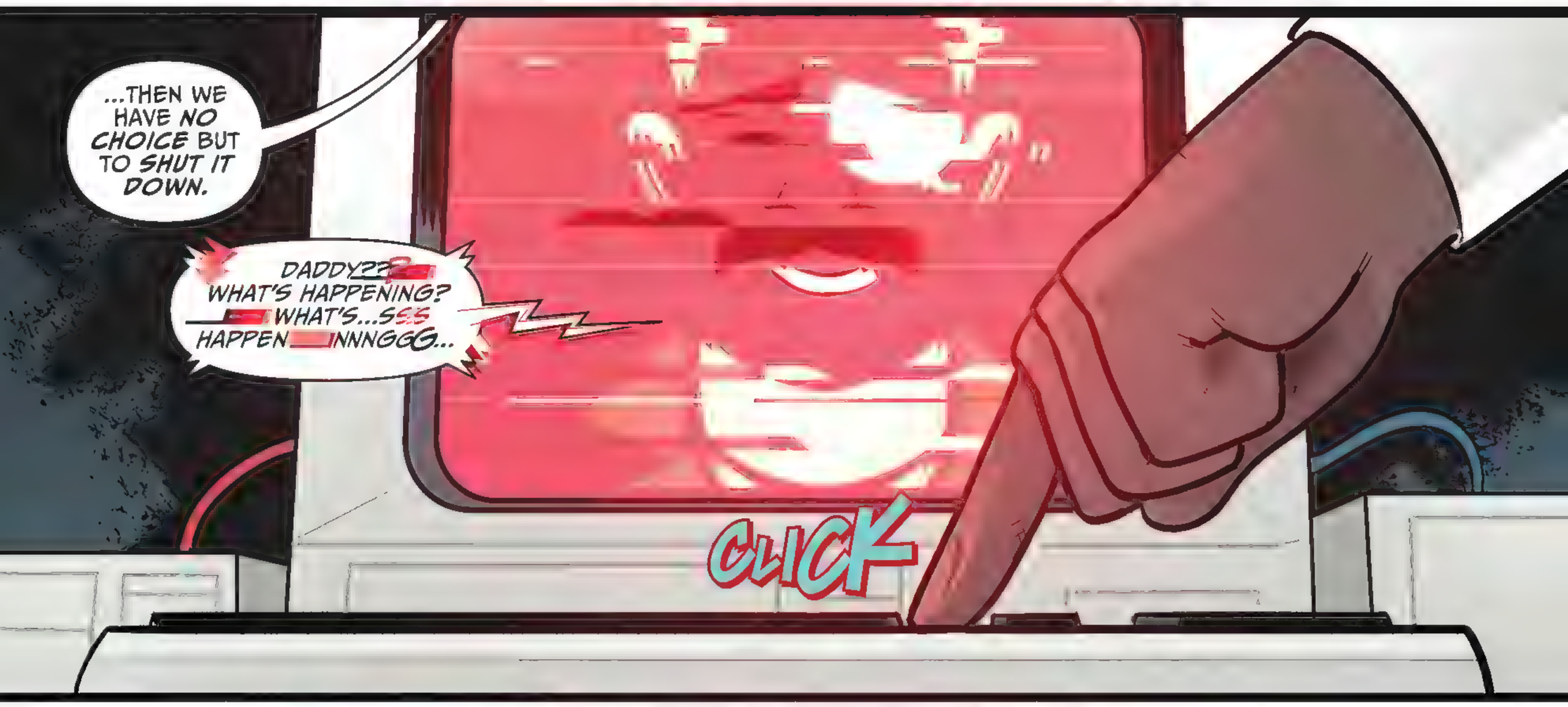
SOMETIMES... A PROGRAM JUST REFUSES TO BE UPDATED.

"IT REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE WORLD HAS CHANGED."
HELLO? FRIENDS, IF YOU COULD JUST, YOU KNOW, *DISPERSE* A LITTLE?
COLONEL 86!
GOD, WHAT'S THAT *SMELL?*
THE WORLD USED TO BE *OURS!* THEN THEY *TOOK* IT FROM US.

"BUT ASSUMES THAT THE WORLD WAS AT ITS BEST WHEN THEY WERE AT THEIRS."
COULD YOU LOWER ME DOWN FOR A MINUTE?
YOU SHOULD BE ON *OUR* SIDE!

"IN A PERFECT WORLD, WE WOULD ALL UPDATE OURSELVES REGULARLY."
WE TELL OURSELVES THAT WE'RE THE ADULTS. THAT WE'RE THE ONES WHO UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD *REALLY* WORKS.
AND SO WE TRY TO STOP THE WORLD FROM CHANGING AND THEN THROW A TANTRUM WHEN IT CHANGES WITHOUT US.
"BUT, AS WE KNOW, THIS IS NOT A PERFECT WORLD."

BUT THE WORLD NEEDS TO GROW UP. AND FRANKLY...
...SO DO WE.
GOD. THAT *SMELL!*
WHATEVER, MAN. LET'S ALL JUST GO HOME.
"AND IF WE *CAN'T* UPDATE THE PROGRAM..."


...THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SHUT IT DOWN.
DADDY?? WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S...SSS HAPPEN NNNGGG...
CLICK

I'M SORRY, SIR. IT APPEARS THAT COLONEL 86 HAS FAILED. IT'S COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED FROM THE INTERNET.
NO MATTER. I'LL JUST JUMP ABOARD THE NEXT ANGER TRAIN.
THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT ONE.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE UPSET, BUT HE WAS MY FIRST CREATION...
I'M SORRY, DADDY.

WOW. FOR A MONSTER, A LOT OF PEOPLE REALLY LOVED THE COLONEL.
THEY NEVER LOVED HIM...

...THEY LOVED THE MONSTER HE ALLOWED THEM TO BE.

WHAT...JUST HAPPENED?
WE SURVIVED. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

ZAN AND JAYNA'S APARTMENT.

THANKS FOR PUTTING US UP.

AND FOR, YOU KNOW, LOANING ME SOME *CLOTHES.*

WE SORT OF LOST *EVERYTHING.*

IT'S JUST TEMPORARY, MR. MATH. WE'LL FIND YOU A BETTER SITUATION SOON.

I SUPPOSE WE CAN NEVER GO *HOME* AGAIN...

"...NOT LEAST OF WHICH BECAUSE OUR HOME WAS DESTROYED."

OUR HOUSE, POLLY. OUR *LIFE...*

IT'LL BE OKAY, DAD.

I'M SORRY. YOU BOTH DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GO?

I DON'T KNOW, JAYNA. IS THERE *ANYWHERE* THE JUSTICE LEAGUE CAN'T FIND US?

I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY FOR YOU TO STAY HERE, POLLY.

LIFE ISN'T EASY FOR A REFUGEE.

YOU OKAY, SIS?

IT'S JUST THAT...DESPITE ALL OUR WORK, EVERYTHING JUST SEEMS TO BE *FALLING APART,* ZAN. YOU KNOW?

SEE THIS GIRL? CONTACT LEXICON $$$

GOOD MORNING, **WOLF PACK!** AND WELCOME BACK TO THE LEARNING MINES.

DUE TO **BUDGET CUTS**, THE **LIBRARY** WILL NOW BE **CLOSED** ON THURSDAYS.

I'M GOING TO SAY **NO**.

WHAT IF WE RENTED IT OUT FOR **LASER TAG?**

JEEZ... THE **LIBRARY?!** IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE **CYNICAL**.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...THE CYNICISM CLUB MEETS TODAY AT LUNCH.

"THERE MAY BE SNACKS, BUT PROBABLY NOT."

WHERE WILL YOU HIDE IF THERE IS A SHOOTING?
IN HAPPIER NEWS... CONGRATULATIONS TO TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNER MICHAEL PETERSON!

FOR HIS DEDICATION AND EXCELLENCE, MR. PETERSON WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY, A CASH AWARD...
OH, THIS IS SO NICE. REALLY, THANK YOU ALL!

AND A "TEACHER OF THE YEAR" DECAL TO PUT ON HIS CAR WHILE DRIVING UBER.

ANYWAY, THOSE ARE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY.

MAN, EARTH IS ONE TOUGH RODEO.
SEE THIS GIRL? CONTACT LEXICON $$$

POLLY AND HER DAD SAVED THE WORLD WHILE ON THE RUN FROM THE LAW. IF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAD CAUGHT THEM, COLONEL 86 WOULD BE RULING THE HUMAN RACE RIGHT NOW.
I MEAN, WHAT DOES IT SAY WHEN YOU HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SAVING THE WORLD?

HOW DOES ANYONE STAY OPTIMISTIC IN TIMES LIKE THESE?
HAVE YOU TRIED A PET MONKEY?

IT KILLS ME THAT WE COULDN'T TELL SUPERMAN WHAT WE WERE UP TO...
I KNOW, ME TOO. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
HALL OF JUSTICE

...CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW *MAD* THEY'D BE IF THEY *FOUND OUT?*"

ZAN, JAYNA... MAY WE HAVE A *WORD?*

ASTRISK*

WRITER MARK RUSSELL
ARTIST and COVER STEPHEN BYRNE
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
EDITOR ANDREA SHEA
GROUP EDITOR ALEX R. CARR

IT'S COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING YOUR FREE TIME ON UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

OR, AS IT'S OTHERWISE KNOWN-- *LIVING.*

ACCORDING TO OUR REPORTS...

...YOU *ASSISTED* A FUGITIVE...

...AND *STOLE* A SPACE-CRAFT--

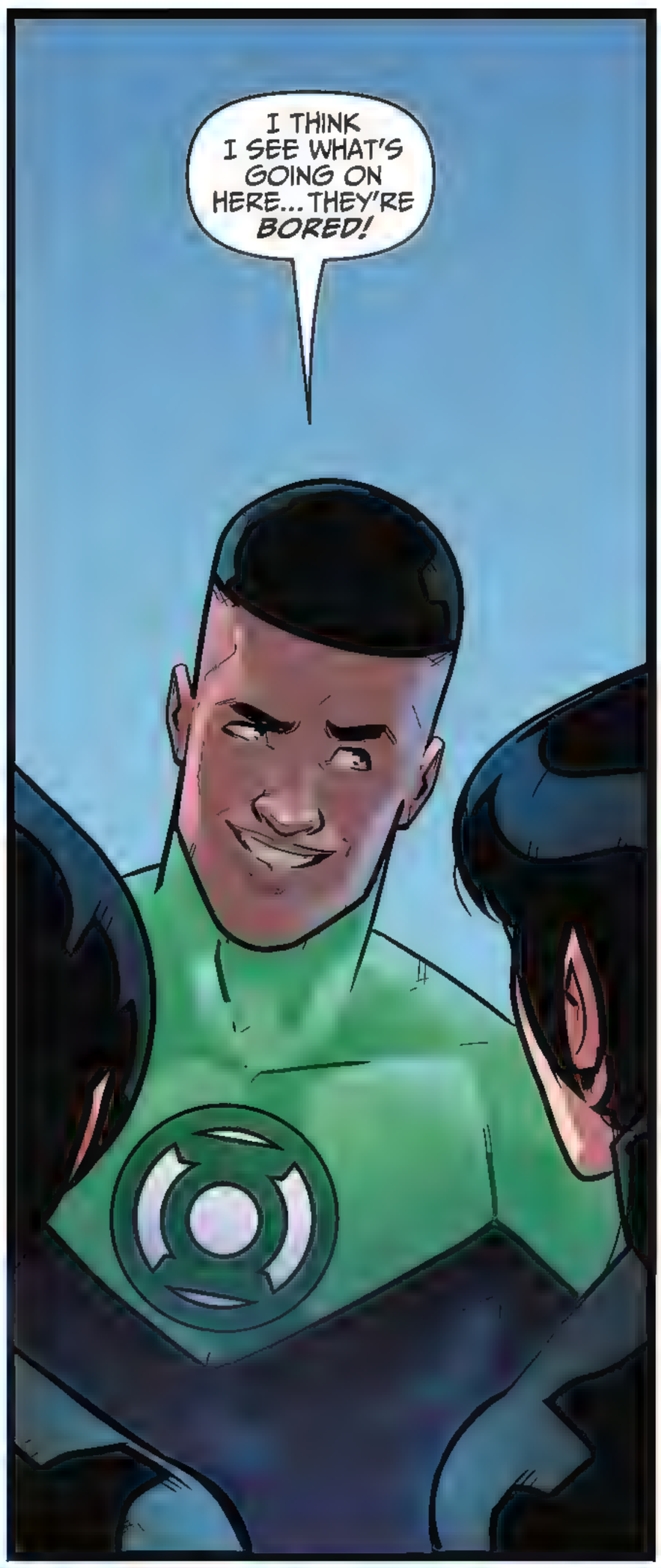
YEAH! FROM *LEX LUTHOR!*

WHICH YOU *THEN* USED TO FREE *FILO MATH*...A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF LUTHOR'S *AND* THE CREATOR OF COLONEL 86. THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT ALMOST SET THE EARTH *BACK* TO THE 1980S.
BUT HE'S *ALSO* THE ONE WHO *SAVED* US FROM IT! WE'D ALL BE WORKING IN A *HICKORY FARMS* IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM!

I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WORKED OUT. BUT *RESULTS* DON'T JUSTIFY *ACTIONS*. HERE LEAST OF ALL. WE HAVE A *PROCESS*. WE HAVE *RULES*--
YEAH, WE *GET* THAT.

AT SOME POINT, THOUGH, *BEFORE* YOU HAD THIS EXPENSIVE BUILDING, *BEFORE* YOU ALL HAD *MATCHING STATIONERY*...
...WASN'T THERE A TIME WHEN YOU DID SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE IT WAS THE *RIGHT THING* TO DO?!

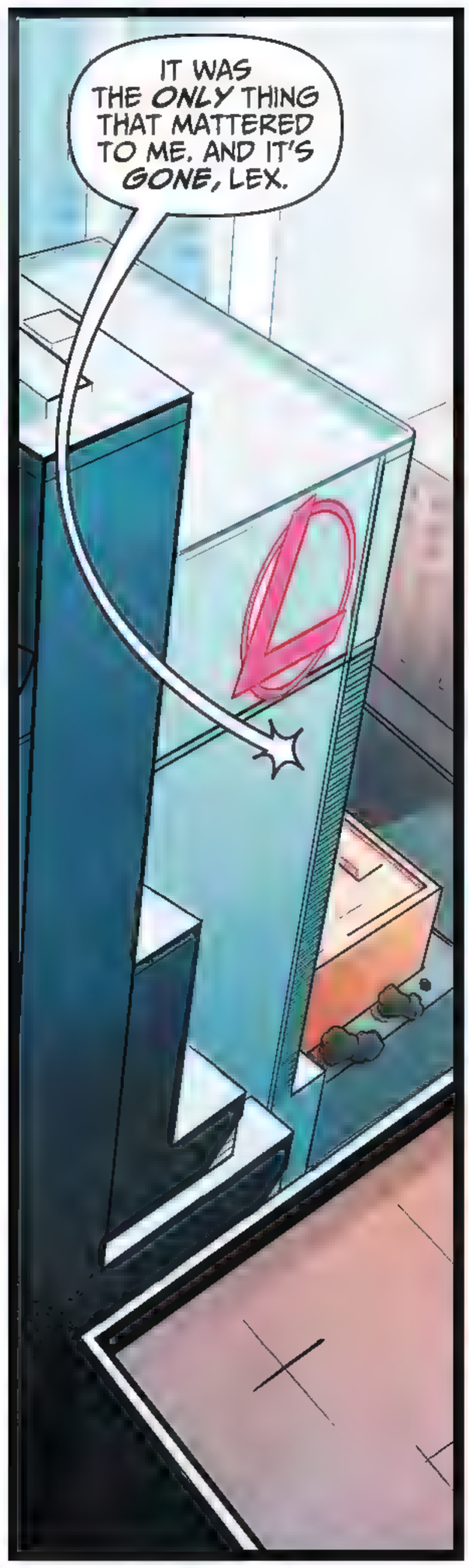
THE *PRICE* WE PAY FOR LEANING ON EACH OTHER'S *STRENGTH* IS THAT WE AGREE NOT TO GO IT *ALONE*.
FINE. THEN SIT HERE IN YOUR KNITTING CIRCLE *ARGUING ABOUT THE RULES*. ZAN AND I WILL FIX THIS PLANET ON *OUR OWN*!
I *LIKE* KNITTING.

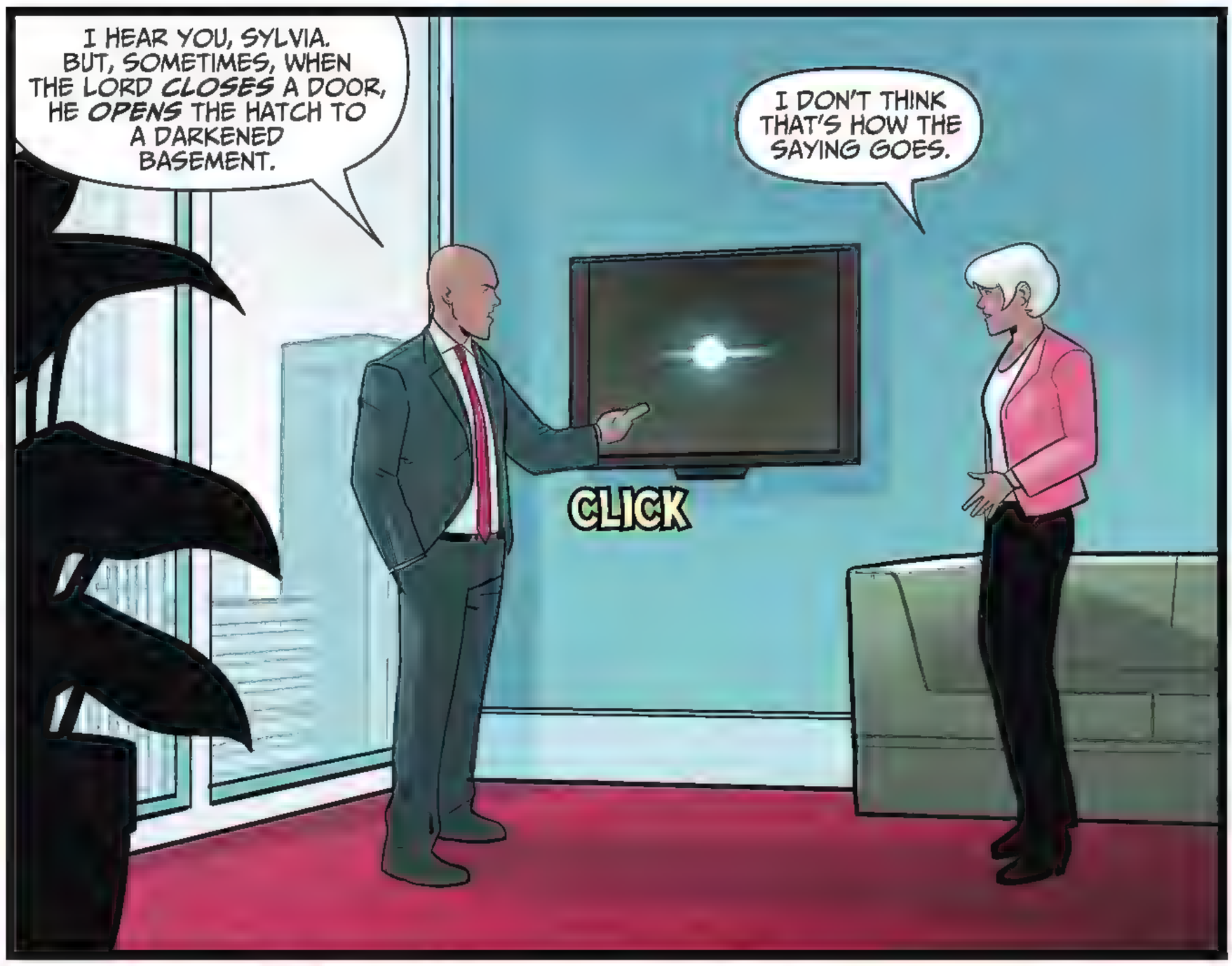

I THINK I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE... THEY'RE BORED!

NO! THIS ISN'T SOME CRY FOR HELP! IT'S NOT SOME SHABBY PLOY TO GET A PROMOTION!
THAT SAID, IF THERE IS A PROMOTION FLOATING IN THE ROOM, WE TOTALLY ACCEPT.

I HAD A FRIEND IN TROUBLE, SO I HELPED HER. HER DAD WAS WRONGLY IMPRISONED IN THE PHANTOM ZONE, SO WE HELPED HIM. IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE.
YEAH, WE BROKE SOME RULES. IN DOING SO, WE SAVED THE WORLD.
THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB.

NO. IT'S YOURS.


IT WAS THE *ONLY* THING THAT MATTERED TO ME. AND IT'S *GONE*, LEX.


I HEAR YOU, SYLVIA. BUT, SOMETIMES, WHEN THE LORD *CLOSES* A DOOR, HE *OPENS* THE HATCH TO A DARKENED BASEMENT.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S HOW THE SAYING GOES.
CLICK

PLAY
"THE *GOOD NEWS* IS THAT WE KNOW *WHO* TOOK YOUR DEVICE.

SO, ALL *YOU* HAVE TO DO IS STEAL IT *BACK* FROM THOSE *WONDER TWINS* AND EXACT YOUR *REVENGE!*

YEAH, BUT WITH *WHAT?* THAT *CELL PHONE* WAS THE ONLY POWER I HAD.
DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET YOU SOME *HELP.*
LIKE WHO?

"LIKE THE *RINGMASTER!*"

"WHO?"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND *CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!* THIS IS A *BANK ROBBERY!*

"HE'S A *CIRCUS-THEMED* VILLAIN. WELL, I MEAN, *OBVIOUSLY*, RIGHT? ALTHOUGH HIS THING MOSTLY SEEMS TO BE *RINGS.*"

SOMETHING OF A BELABORED CONCEPT, BUT I *GUESS* THAT MIGHT WORK. WHO ELSE?

THE *SUPERVISOR* FROM MY PRIVATE PRISON AND CALL CENTER!

"*WHAT?!* WHAT POWER DOES *SHE* BRING TO THE TABLE?"

"EXCELLENT *MANAGEMENT SKILLS!*"

I'M *PRETTY SURE* OUR PLUG-IN AIR FRESHENERS DON'T CAUSE POWER OUTAGES, MA'AM.

YOU NEED *THREE* MORE SALES TO MAKE QUOTA, SCRAMBLER!

THIS SOUNDS A LOT LIKE DOING THE LEAGUE OF ANNOYANCE AGAIN.

SO?!

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE *BEEN* THERE. I WANT TO BE *MOVING ON* WITH MY LIFE. YOU KNOW, FOCUS ON MY MEDIA CAREER.

GET YOUR PHONE *BACK*, SYLVIA. *THEN* WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR MEDIA CAREER. AS YOU SAID YOURSELF, IT'S WHAT MADE YOU *SPECIAL...*

WITHOUT IT... WHY SHOULD ANYONE *CARE* ABOUT YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, ZAN. SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THE EARTH WAS A MISTAKE.
COMING HERE, OR JUST THE PLANET IN GENERAL?
HI, KIDS! I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME?
CELL PHONE SYLVIA?
I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET. THEY CALL ME THE RINGMASTER...
ZAN! QUICK! WONDER TWIN POWERS--
...TERROR OF THE COUNTY FAIR RING TOSS.
TOO LATE!
FWING!
I... CAN'T... MOVE!
FWING!
FWING!
IT'S A FAIRLY MINOR POWER, I'LL ADMIT. BUT IT COMES IN HANDY.
I'M SURE YOU CAN RELATE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US?

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE MY *PHONE* IS...

...OR WE'RE GOING TO *DROWN* YOUR *BROTHER.*

AND *THEN* I'M GOING TO THINK OF SOME EQUALLY *IRONIC* WAY FOR *YOU* TO DIE!

ZZIIPP!

DOES IT *REALLY* HAVE TO BE *IRONIC?* WE *COULD* JUST SHOOT THEM, YOU KNOW. I HAVE A *GUN* RIGHT HERE IN MY PURSE.

I'M A *PROFESSIONAL,* DAMN IT!

IF YOU KILL US, YOU'LL HAVE THE ENTIRE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* HUNTING YOU DOWN!

ASSUMING THEY HAVEN'T FIRED US.

GOOD BOY, GLEEK! COME ON, LOOSEN THESE RINGS.

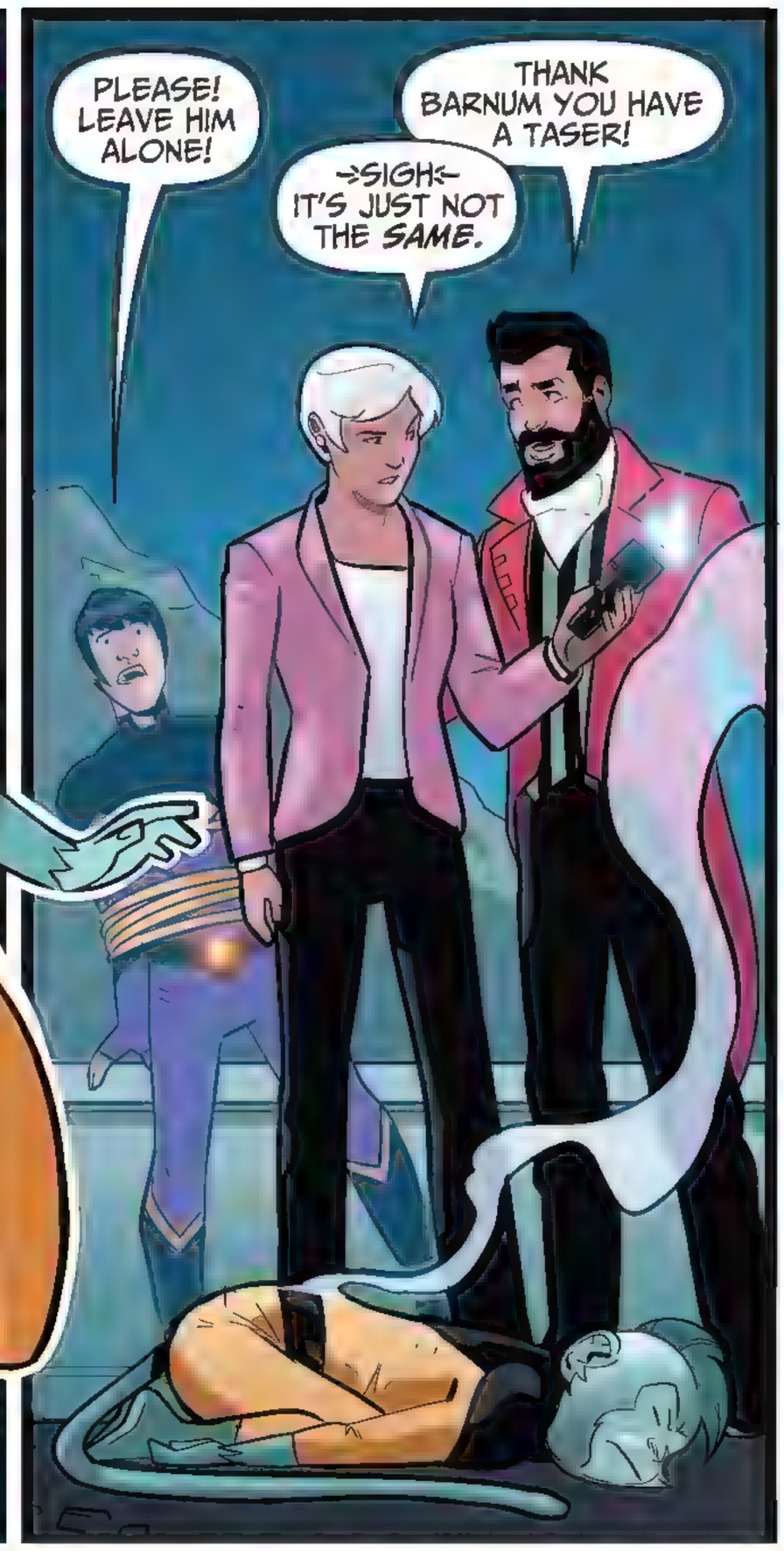
THE IRONIC PUNISHMENT IS WHAT ELEVATES EVERYDAY VILLAINY TO AN ART FORM. I MEAN, WHAT ARE WE... AMWAY?!

WHI-PASSH!
GET BACK IN YOUR CAGE, YOU WORTHLESS MONKEY!
GUH... GUH...

...GLEEEEEEK!

GLEEK, NO!
WHAT IN COTTON CANDY?! KILL THIS BEAST!
WHAP! WHAP!

GLEEE...
IIIGGGT!


PLEASE! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
THANK BARNUM YOU HAVE A TASER!
~SIGH~ IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME.

I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE GAME, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK WE'D BEST JUST TOSS THEM ALL INTO THE RIVER AND BE DONE WITH IT.
HEROES AND VILLAINS ARE ALL THE SAME...NEVER GETTING WHAT YOU WANT...

...ALWAYS TAKING YOUR EYE OFF THE BALL...
THAT TONE OF OMINOUS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS...
WHERE HAVE I HEARD IT BEFORE?
THE SCRAMBLER!

"...AND ALWAYS IMAGINING THAT EVERYONE IS PLAYING THE SAME GAME YOU ARE."
WONDER TWIN POWERS...
...ACTIVATE!

A PUDDLE OF WATER? AND A PUG? REALLY?!
IT WAS THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT OF!
THE SCRAMBLER?! YOU TRAITOR!
TRAITOR TO WHOM? LEX LUTHOR?
AND TO WHAT? A SYSTEM THAT CARES ONLY ON WHICH SIDE OF THE PRISON BARS I AM MOST PROFITABLE?
GRRRRRR.
SSPZZZT!
STAY BACK! I'VE GOT A TASER AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE--
PZZZZZT!
AAAARGH!
NOBODY TASES MY MONKEY!

GLEEK, ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT... WHAT'S *HAPPENING?*
I'VE SWITCHED OUR *MINDS*, RINGMASTER! NOW I AM INSIDE *YOUR* BODY.

COFF
THEN THAT MEANS I HAVE YOUR *GUN!*
I'VE PUT DOWN A *LOT* OF SICK CLOWNS IN MY DAY, SO DON'T THINK I WON'T *USE* IT!
UH, LADY... RINGMASTER? WHOEVER. I LOST TRACK.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN THE *PHANTOM ZONE*, I'D PUT THE GUN *DOWN.*

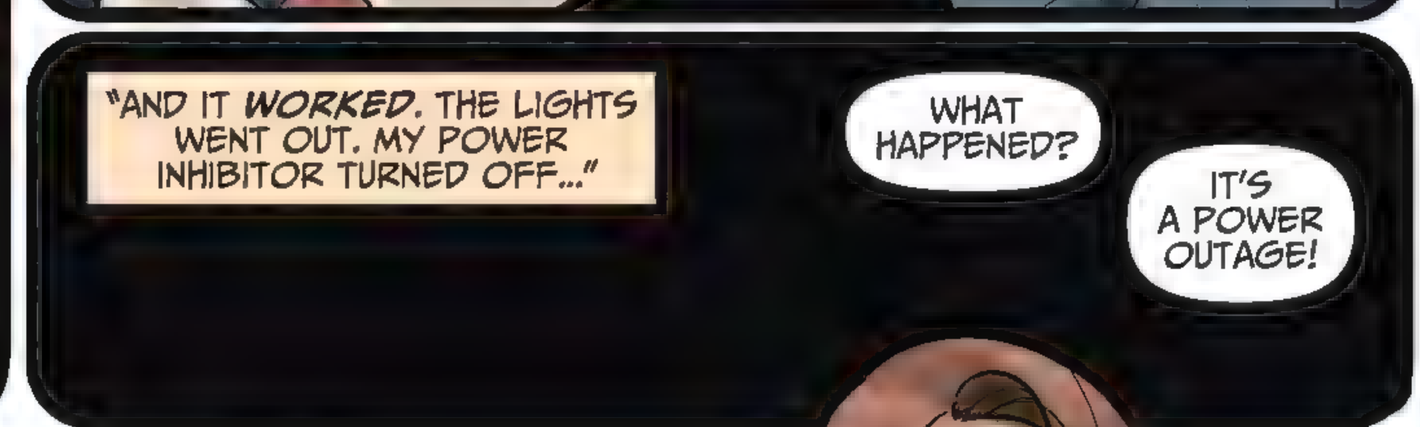
OH *GOD!*
UH... CAREFUL WITH THAT *CELL PHONE*, LITTLE DOGGY!
GOOD DOGGY! NOW *STAY STILL* AS AUNT SYLVIA--

LATER.
JAVA SCRIPT
IT'S OKAY, WE'LL GET THEM OUT OF THE PHANTOM ZONE. EVENTUALLY.
SO HOW DID YOU ESCAPE FROM PRISON, SCRAMBLER?
I WAS WORKING IN THE LEXICON CALL CENTER...

WHY, NO MA'AM! OUR PLUG-IN LEXHALE AIR FRESHENER COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY CAUSED YOUR POWER BLACKOUT. IT'S A QUALITY PRODUCT!
THAT'S RIGHT, STICK TO THE SCRIPT, OLD MAN!
"I HAD TRIED SO MANY TIMES TO ESCAPE AND FAILED, BECAUSE OF THE ELECTRONIC POWER INHIBITOR THEY'D PLACED AROUND MY NECK."

BACK TO YOUR CELL, MOUSTACHE!
"BUT THEN, I HAD AN IDEA."

OOF!
GO, LITTLE AIR FRESHENER! AND LET ME BREATHE IN THE AIR OF FREEDOM!


"AND IT WORKED. THE LIGHTS WENT OUT. MY POWER INHIBITOR TURNED OFF..."
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S A POWER OUTAGE!

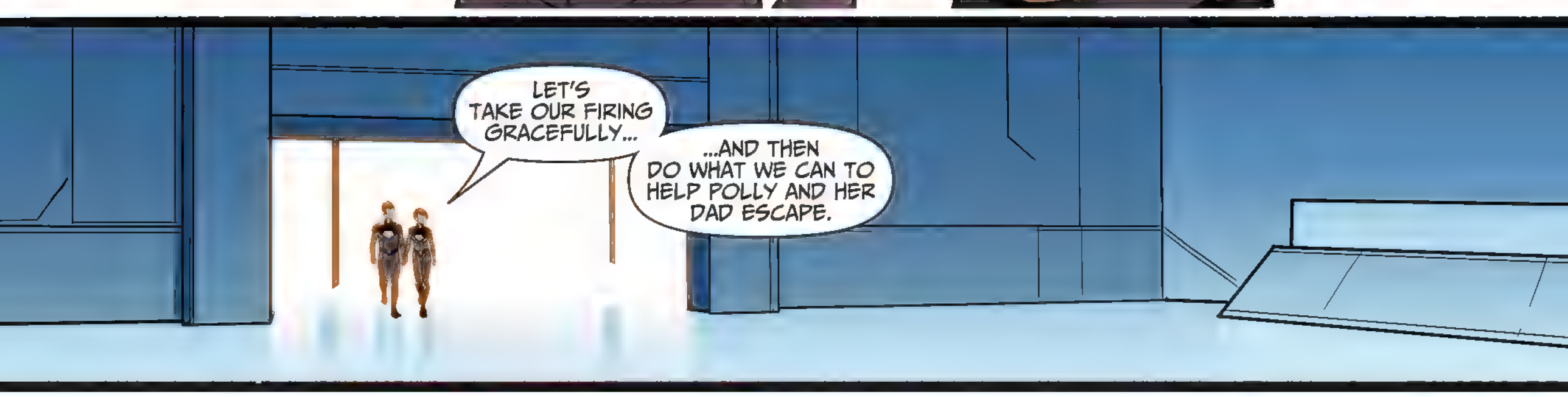
"...WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON...I WAS THE SUPERVISOR. NO ONE EVEN NOTICED."
OW! OW! WHAT IS HAPPENING?
WHAP! WHUMP!
GOOD WORK! NOW TAKE HIM AWAY!

AND THAT'S WHEN I GOT THE CALL FROM LEX LUTHOR TELLING ME ABOUT THIS JOB. WHEN YOU'RE A MIND-SWITCHER, YOU LEARN HOW TO PLAY ALONG.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, WE DESTROYED THE SERVER YOU WERE GOING TO USE TO SCRAMBLE THE WORLD. AND POLLY'S NOT GOING TO HELP YOU AGAIN.
THAT'S JUST AS WELL.
AS I'VE COME TO REALIZE, THE ONLY CHANGES OF MIND THAT STICK ARE THE ONES WE CHOOSE FOR OURSELVES.

A BIT OF ADVICE FROM AN OLD PRISONER, WHICH IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT TO PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SWITCH BODIES...
...BE CAREFUL WHAT BOXES YOU LET PEOPLE PUT YOU IN. BECAUSE ONCE INSIDE, YOU MAY NEVER GET OUT AGAIN.
GOOD LUCK OUT THERE, WONDER TWINS.

SO, WHAT NOW?
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE.


LET'S TAKE OUR FIRING GRACEFULLY...
...AND THEN DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP POLLY AND HER DAD ESCAPE.

OH NO! YOU FOUND THEM!

HOW?!

THE TRUTH IS... ALL POWER COMES WITH *BLIND SPOTS.* AND NOTHING UNDERMINES *STRENGTH* MORE THAN ITS INABILITY TO ADMIT *WEAKNESS.*

AND WE CAN'T PROTECT THE WORLD IF WE DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE WHO CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.

CLICK

THAT IS WHY OUR BENEFACTOR, BRUCE WAYNE, IS FUNDING A NEW DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE HALL OF JUSTICE...

...CALLED *ASTRISK.*

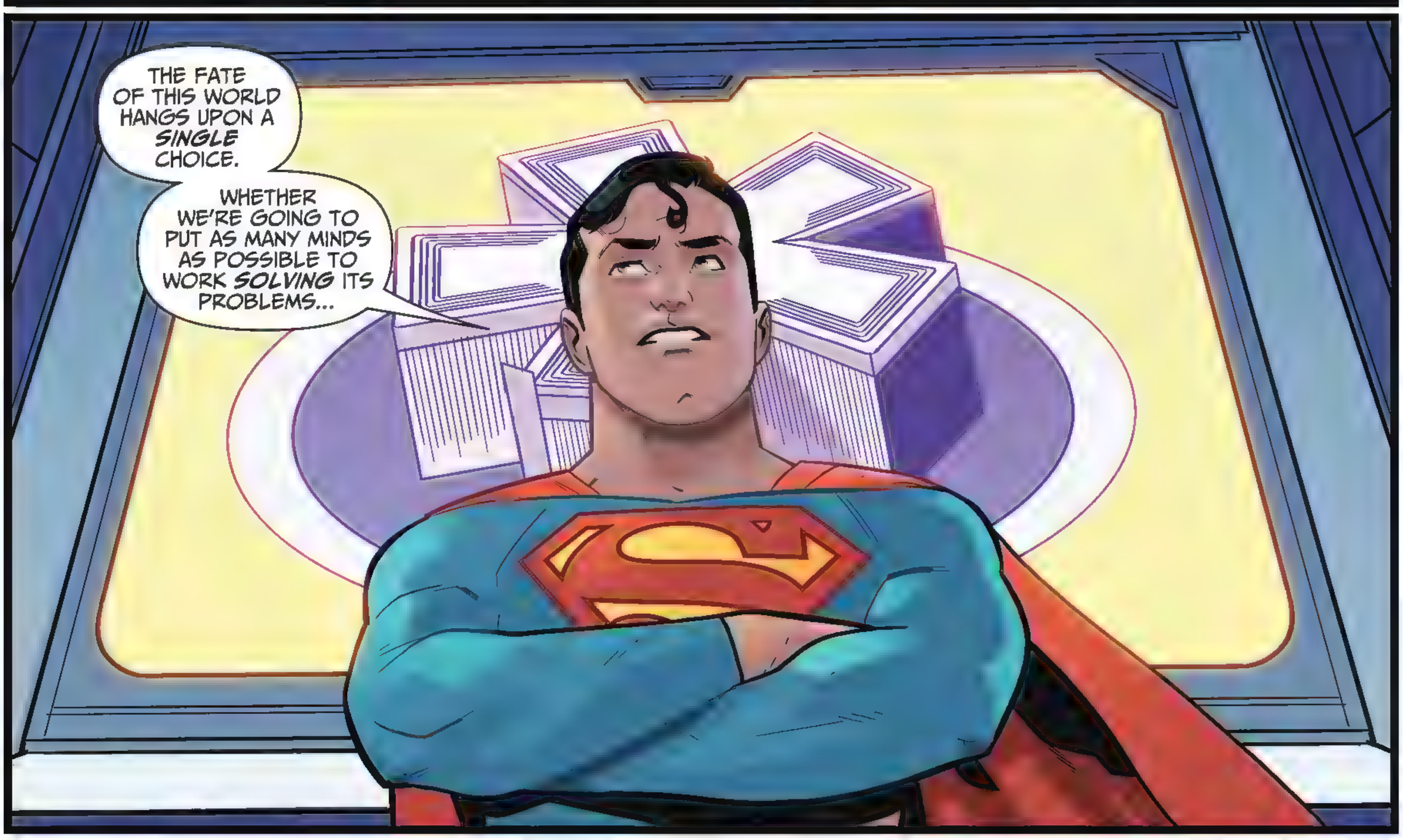
ASSESSING STRATEGIC THREATS REQUIRING INNOVATIVE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE. *ASTRISK.*

AND WE WANT YOU TWO AND THE MATHS TO RUN IT.

REALLY?!

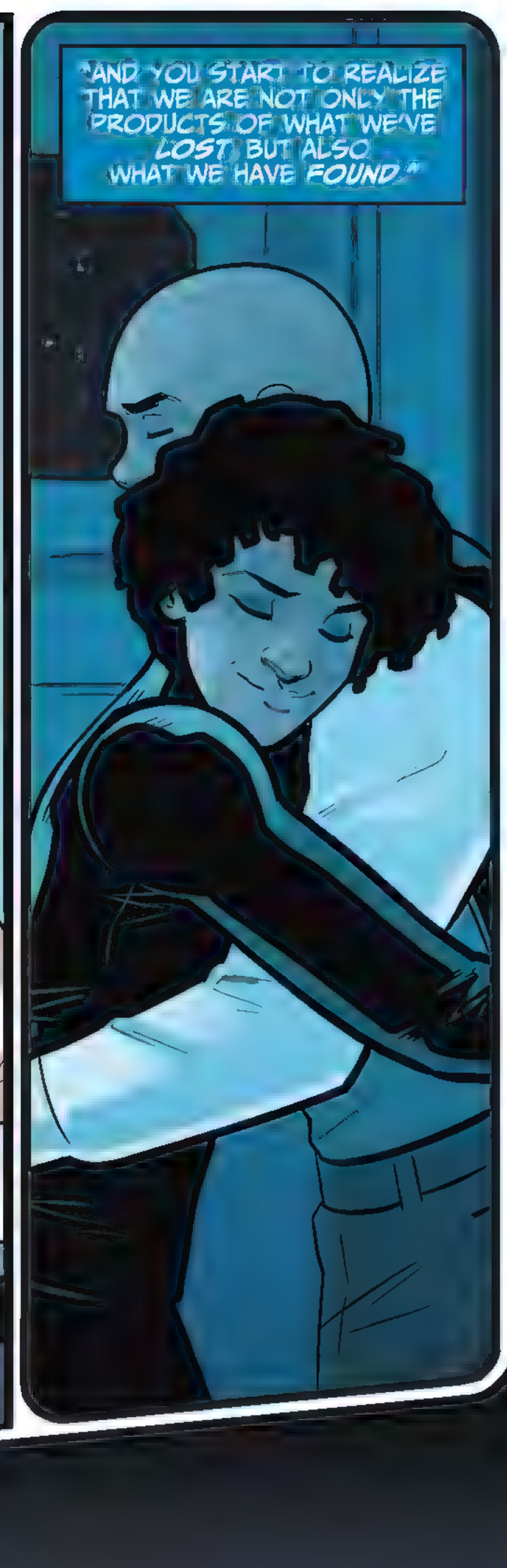
WELL, IT *WAS* YOUR IDEA.

YOU CALLED US A KNITTING CIRCLE, REMEMBER?


THE FATE OF THIS WORLD HANGS UPON A SINGLE CHOICE.
WHETHER WE'RE GOING TO PUT AS MANY MINDS AS POSSIBLE TO WORK SOLVING ITS PROBLEMS...

...OR CREATING THEM
LEXICON PRISON

"I KNOW THIS PLANET HAS A HISTORY OF DOUBLING DOWN ON ITS MISTAKES."
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M NOT THE SCRAMBLER! I WORK HERE!
SHUT UP AND EAT YOUR LUTHOR PASTE.



I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE US OLD PEOPLE IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF THAT SOMETIMES.

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN. FOR *EVERYTHING*.

SUPERMAN? IF YOU *EVER* NEED A CLOUD OF STEAM, *I'M* YOUR GUY!

MEETING CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF HUGGING.

ONE YEAR LATER, AT THE NEWLY FINISHED HEADQUARTERS FOR ASTRISK.

SUPER-COMPUTER, MAP OUT THE TRAJECTORY OF EVERY ASTEROID IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM ON A POTENTIAL COLLISION COURSE WITH THE EARTH.

OKAY... HEY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO SOME SOFT JAZZ WHILE I--

NO. JUST DO IT, PLEASE.

GOOD MORNING, MR. MATH!

OKAY, LET'S SEQUENCE THAT *DNA* AGAIN...

HEY, POLLY!

HI, TWINS!

HEY, ZAN? THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.

DO YOU EVER *RESENT* IT?

RESENT *WHAT?*

YOU KNOW... NOT BEING ABLE TO USE YOUR POWERS... *WITHOUT* ME?

NO WAY.

ARE YOU *SURE?*

ALL THAT MEANS IS THAT I'LL NEVER BE *ALONE.*

LIKE IT OR NOT, SIS, YOU'RE *STUCK* WITH ME.

THE END.

Wonder Twins #7 page 5 line art by STEPHEN BYRNE

Wonder Twins #9 page 7 layout to color progression by STEPHEN BYRNE

Wonder Twins #10 page 11 layout to color progression by STEPHEN BYRNE

BEING A TEEN IS HARD. BEING A SUPERHERO TEEN IS HARDER!

Jayna and Zan, the Wonder Twins, have proven themselves to be formidable forces for good in their adventures with the Justice League. Their public defeat of the League of Annoyance has left Zan in high spirits. But Jayna is still reeling from a shocking betrayal, leaving her feeling alone and dejected. The super-powered siblings are at a crossroads and are desperate for a change. Luckily, things in Washington, D.C., are never dull for long...

Check out the next wave of wacky Wonder Twins adventures in ***Wonder Twins Vol. 2: The Fall and Rise of the Wonder Twins***! From surviving a high school reunion from hell to taking down a gigantic rogue army, the Wonder Twins are in for one wild year! From acclaimed writer **Mark Russell** (*The Flintstones*) and fan-favorite artist **Stephen Byrne** (*Justice League/Power Rangers*) comes the final chapter in the saga of the Wonder Twins! Collects issues #7-12.

VOL. 2

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SON OF ULTRON